ACROSS / A15

DPWH to build 12 major roads in 'super regions' at P32.7M/km

METRO / A21

After Binay, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito fears he's next

NEWS / A2

UK warns RP terror plot in Manila, Mindanao now in final stages

NEWS / A2

Manhattan doc pleads guilty to 1st degree murder of Filipino financial analyst

CA rules criminal raps may be filed vs 'Wowowee'

By Armand N. Nocum

THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice to pursue criminal charges against executives and employees of the ABS-CBN network in connection with the Feb. 4 stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City that left 71 people dead and more than 600 injured.

In a decision dated Oct. 10 and issued yester-

CA RULES/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 18, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 312 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Acting mayor's blood pressure shoots up

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MAKATI NA, MA-TENSYON PA!

RODOLFO FERAREN, Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government for the National Capital Region, had barely warmed his seat as Makati City's caretaker

ACTING/ A18

Binay defies suspension

'They might just as well kill me'

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Norman Bordadora

IN A CAMOUFLAGE jacket he had not worn in years, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay peered through the glass windows of his 21st floor office and watched his army of civilian supporters gathered below and chanting his name.

"They (the Arroyo administration) might as well just kill me. I never run away from a fight," the embattled chief of the opposition bastion in Metro Manila said to the people inside the room with him.

His message was clear: There will be no white flag flying over Makati while he is around.

The political drama is being played out in the country's financial capital, which has also been the scene of opposition protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

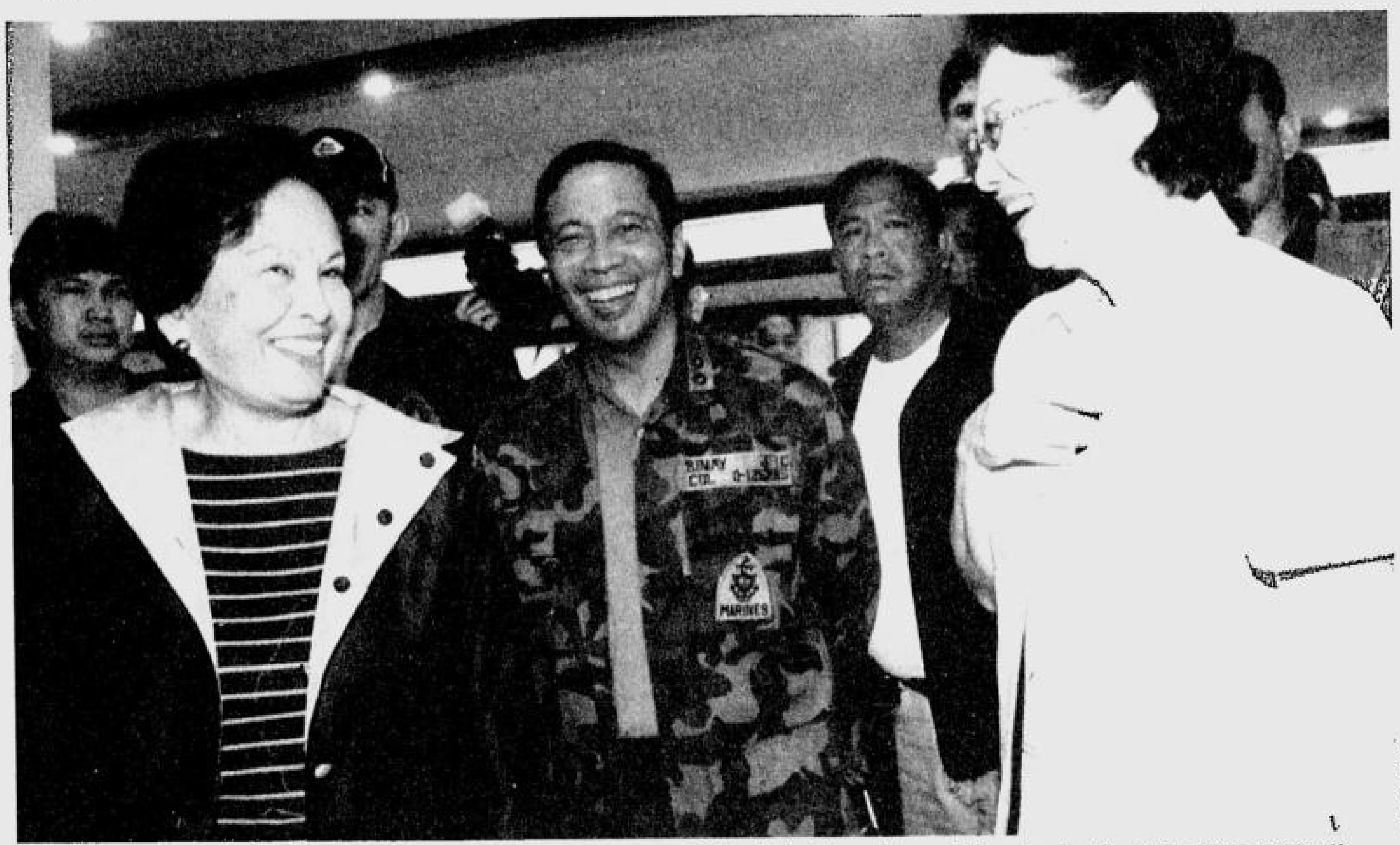
Binay, concurrent president of the United Opposition (UNO), stood his ground, holding out in his stronghold at the 22-story new City Hall, locked in his office and heavily guarded.

"I don't know why I happened to choose this jacket last night," Binay, garbed in the attire of a Marine reserve colonel, told reporters.

"I think in your unguarded moments, in these times of crisis, you are compelled to wear something that is demanded by the situation."

Binay yesterday took his defiant stand after administration officials, backed by about 1,000 po-

BINAY DEFIES/ A10



REM ZAMORA

"A ROLE MODEL FOR ALL MAYORS," ex-President Cory Aquino says of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay shortly after visiting him and his wife Elenita (left) on the 21st floor of the Makati City Hall. Binay was a staunch ally of Aquino through each of at least six coup attempts during her term.

Allah was on my side, says DILG official

By Norman Bordadora, Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

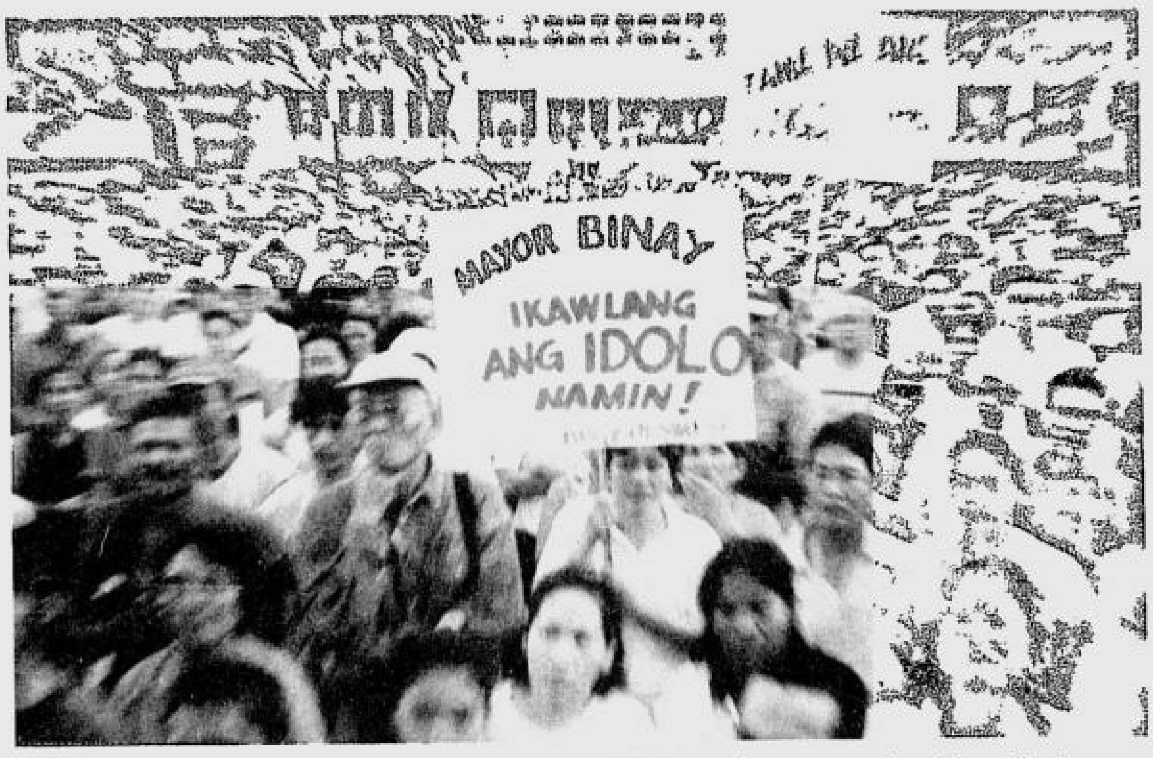
WHILE SUPPORTERS OF BELEAGUERED Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay were busy stocking up on food in preparation of a possible police blockade, the man assigned to serve Malacañang's order suspending him from office was busy praying to Allah.

Interior Undersecretary Wenceslao Andanar, a Muslim, just wanted to make sure God was on his side.

Andanar told the INQUIRER that before he left for Makati City to serve the order, he included the possibly ticklish situation about to confront him in his morning prayers.

"I was not the only one praying. My whole family was," said Andanar, who was escorted by the police when he served the suspension order.

ALLAH/ A7


MAYOR BINAY
IKAW LANG ANG IDOLO NAMIN!

BINAY'S ARMY occupies the quadrangle fronting City Hall. The acting mayor ordered the police to dismantle the barricades to allow Binay's supporters to rally for their "idol." RYAN LIM

Palace: It's not political, we're fair, no favoritism

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS STANDING firm on its decision to suspend Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay amid criticism that it was part of a political vendetta against local executives who do not toe the administration line.

"We have been fair in treating all pending cases. No favoritism. We have been evenhanded by addressing not only cases against known critics but also against known supporters of the administration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Even so, some senators denounced the suspension of Binay, saying it was a politically motivated harassment of opposition figures ahead of the 2007 elections.

"It's an ugly sight because Makati is our financial center where the biggest banks are located and these multinational companies have sensitive antennas," said Sen. Edgardo Angara. The opposition senator said he was certain that the companies would report the event to their head offices.

"It's time for us Filipinos to wake up and fight for our rights in the manner that Malacañang knows—a tooth for a tooth," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"We should not be cowed or cower in fear in the face of unjustified harassment, or else we will slowly but surely be at the mercy of arrogance of power never seen for a long, long time," Lacson added.

"This is pure and simple political persecution. There is no more level playing field as far as justice is concerned," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said.

"Binay's suspension shows the ruthless schizophrenic, hypocritical GMA (Ms Arroyo) prosecuting local officials against her while

PALACE/ A10

SC to PCGG: Face Senate investigation

By Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana

OFFICIALS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) have no more reason to snub Senate hearings on supposed irregularities in a sequestered corporation.

Voting 15-0, the Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the PCGG had been stripped of its exemption from congressional investigation.

The Supreme Court said officials of the PCGG and Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) only enjoyed a "limited right to privacy," which they could not use as grounds to defy the Senate.

"PCGG Chair Camilo L. Sabio and Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Narciso Nario, Nicasio Conti and Tereso Javier; and Manuel Andal and Julio Jalandoni, PCGG's nominees to (Philcomsat Holdings Corp.), as well as its directors and officers … are ordered to comply with the subpoena *ad testificandum* issued by … Senate committees directing them to appear and testify in public hearings relative to Senate Resolution No. 455," the court said.

Vindicated by the high court's unanimous decision, the Senate will resume its investigation of the alleged dissipation of sequestered assets, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

The high court said that Section 4(b) of Executive Order No. 1, the law that created the PCGG

SC TO PCGG/ A19

Cancer survivor rows to victory

4 MEDALS for Sandra Iñigo Dos Remedios RYAN LIM

By Francis Ochoa

THESE DAYS WHEN SHE GOES to bed, Sandra Concepcion Iñigo Dos Remedios finds it hard to drift off to sleep.

No, the nightmares of her past battle—though fresh in her memory—do not haunt her anymore. It's just that when she closes her eyes, images in pink and black (and gold and silver) swim around in her head and she gets so giddy that she simply has to sit up and smile.

"It's like living a dream," the 46-year-old mother of four told the INQUIRER one Saturday morning, while sitting under a torrent of sunshine at the edge of a seawall off Manila Bay.

It is quite a dream.

Late in September, Dos Remedios (Sandy to family and friends) flew to Singapore to participate in the 1st IPDBC Breast Cancer Dragon Boat World Championships.

Sandy is a breast cancer survivor. She wears the scars of her triumph against the dreaded dis-

CANCER/ A8

4 top nursing schools defend filing of motion

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS ANYONE PLAYING THE SPOILer's role in the nursing leakage controversy?

A professor at the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing yesterday said the school and three other leading nursing schools were well within their rights in filing a motion for reconsideration.

Prof. Zenaida Famorca was referring to the motion filed with the Court of Appeals by UST, along with nurses from the University of the Philippines (UP), University of the East (UE) and the Far Eastern University (FEU).

Nursing board passers and their parents are considering filing a damage suit against the petitioners who opposed the appellate court's decision.

The motion, which said the court's order for a selective retake of the June 2006 licensure exam failed to put the issue to rest, was seen by some quarters as further prolonging the agony of "passers" awaiting their oath and license.

"No, we're not playing the spoiler's role here," Famorca told the INQUIRER. "We're not trying to delay the oath-taking."

"There are nurses and parents who are currently discussing the possible filing of a damage suit. For me, I will support that because what they are doing is too much already. They are causing us, the innocent examinees, too much agony," said 10th-placer Chulou Penales.

Penales, who heads the Tapoktapok sa Nagkahiusang Nurses Batok sa Retake, said her group could not understand why the petitioners continued to pursue a retake for all when even the National Bureau of Investigation found that the leak was limited to Manila and Baguio City.

The Court of Appeals on Friday ruled that those who passed the board exam conducted outside of

4 TOP/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon and Visayas will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/17/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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British warn RP of terror plot

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WARNED YESTERDAY THAT TERrorists could be in the final stages of plotting more attacks after the series of bombings in Mindanao, and advised its citizens against traveling to the region.

In Metro Manila, the Philippine National Police Tuesday placed the National Capital Region under "full alert," its highest alert status, due to the threat of terrorist attacks and the standoff in Makati City involving Mayor Jejomar Binay. *(See story on Page A1.)*

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said full alert meant more policemen would be deployed to the region to augment its 15,000-strong police force.

"The alert status in Metro Manila has been raised from heightened alert to full alert. We are watching out against groups who might take advantage of the situation," Pagdilao told reporters in Camp Crame.

Terror targets

Pagdilao said the police will beef up their presence in malls and other likely "targets of terrorists." He said the number of "preventive patrols" and street checkpoints would also be increased.

Police have blamed militants belonging to the al-Qaida-linked and Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and the local Abu Sayyaf terror groups for three bombings that occurred in Mindanao last week, including an Oct. 10 attack that killed six people and wounded 29 during a town fiesta in North Cotabato province.

The American, British and Australian embassies had cautioned against travel to Mindanao shortly before the attacks, citing credible information that terrorists might strike.

Renewing their warning yesterday, British officials said more terror attacks might be staged soon.

"We believe that terrorists are in the final stages of planning further attacks," the British Embassy said in an advisory.

Extreme alert

Authorities have placed Mindanao under "extreme critical alert"—the highest of a four-step terror warning.

Also Tuesday, they seized about 200 kilograms of ammonium nitrate fertilizer transported from Jolo to Zamboanga City, fearing the material could be used in explosives, officials said. *(See story on Page A15.)*

Three men were questioned in connection with the shipment, which had been declared as fish, Zamboanga port commander Frank Clavecillas said.

A "full alert," Pagdilao explained, was the PNP's equivalent of a military red alert. This means all policemen in Metro Manila will have to be at their posts at all times. Leaves are canceled. Heightened alert means only half of the policemen are required to be at their posts.

The military, for its part, has placed Metro Manila under a "moderate" terror alert to signify that a group with an attack plan exists.

Binay was holed up at the Makati City Hall, resisting the suspension order that stemmed from corruption charges filed against him. The mayor has denied the charges.

With the terror alert up in Metro Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the people to help make the Philippines "one of the best fighters against terrorism."

Top of the situation

Speaking before businessmen at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, the President said that while the authorities were "on top of the situation," the public needed to be vigilant to help the government in the fight against terrorism.

"I call for broader alertness in reporting suspicious activities, even as calmness and sobriety mark our everyday work and livelihood," the President told the 8th CEO Forum of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines.

"The strong cooperation between a vigilant public and our security forces will deny the terrorists any room to carry out sinister plots," she said.

Muslim militants reportedly staged last week's bombings to divert attention from the ongoing United States-backed military offensive against JI and Abu Sayyaf rebels on Jolo island, and to avenge the recent capture of the wife of Dulmatin, a top Indonesian terror suspect believed to be hiding there, police said. *Alcuin Papa and Christine O. Avendaño with an AP report*

Gas prices slashed for 3rd time in Oct.

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD OIL PRICES CONTI-nue to fall, oil firms yesterday cut prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos a kilogram.

Refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. announced cutbacks at 12:01 a.m., followed by Petron Corp., Chevron Phil., Seaoil Petroleum Corp., Flying V and Unioil Petroleum Phil. at 8 a.m.

Total Phil. and Eastern Petroleum reduced prices at 12 noon, also yesterday.

As with recent price reductions, this being the third this month, the oil firms cited falling international oil prices as the reason.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped to an October average of $56.48 a barrel, from September's $59.82 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also fell to $62.19 a barrel in the first 16 days of October, against the $65.86-a-barrel average posted in September.

MOPS-based diesel went down to an average of $72.44 a barrel in the Oct. 1 to 16 period, from $76.95 a barrel last month.

The international contract price of LPG also shaved off almost $80 per metric ton (MT) this month, bringing the October price to $483.50 per MT from $560.90 per MT in September.

Zenaida Monsada, director of the DOE's oil industry management bureau, earlier said gasoline prices could go down by as much as P2 a liter this month, with the reductions expected to be implemented on a staggered basis.

Diesel prices, however, are not likely to go down as much as the tariff on crude and finished products has been restored to the mandated 3 percent from the reduced level of 2 percent, according to Monsada.

Yesterday's rollback brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.74 and P40 a liter, diesel to between P32.20 and P37.50 a liter, and kerosene to between P35.69 and P40.50 a liter.

LPG prices now range between P450.84 and P515 per 11-kg cylinder.

All prices are inclusive of the 12-percent VAT.

NY 'quack' pleads guilty to killing Pinay

NEW YORK—AN UNLICENSED MANHATtan doctor on Monday pleaded guilty to first degree assault for killing a young New York banker who died after he performed a botched laser surgery on her.

Dean Faiello, 47, had originally been charged with second degree murder and had faced 25 years to life in state prison.

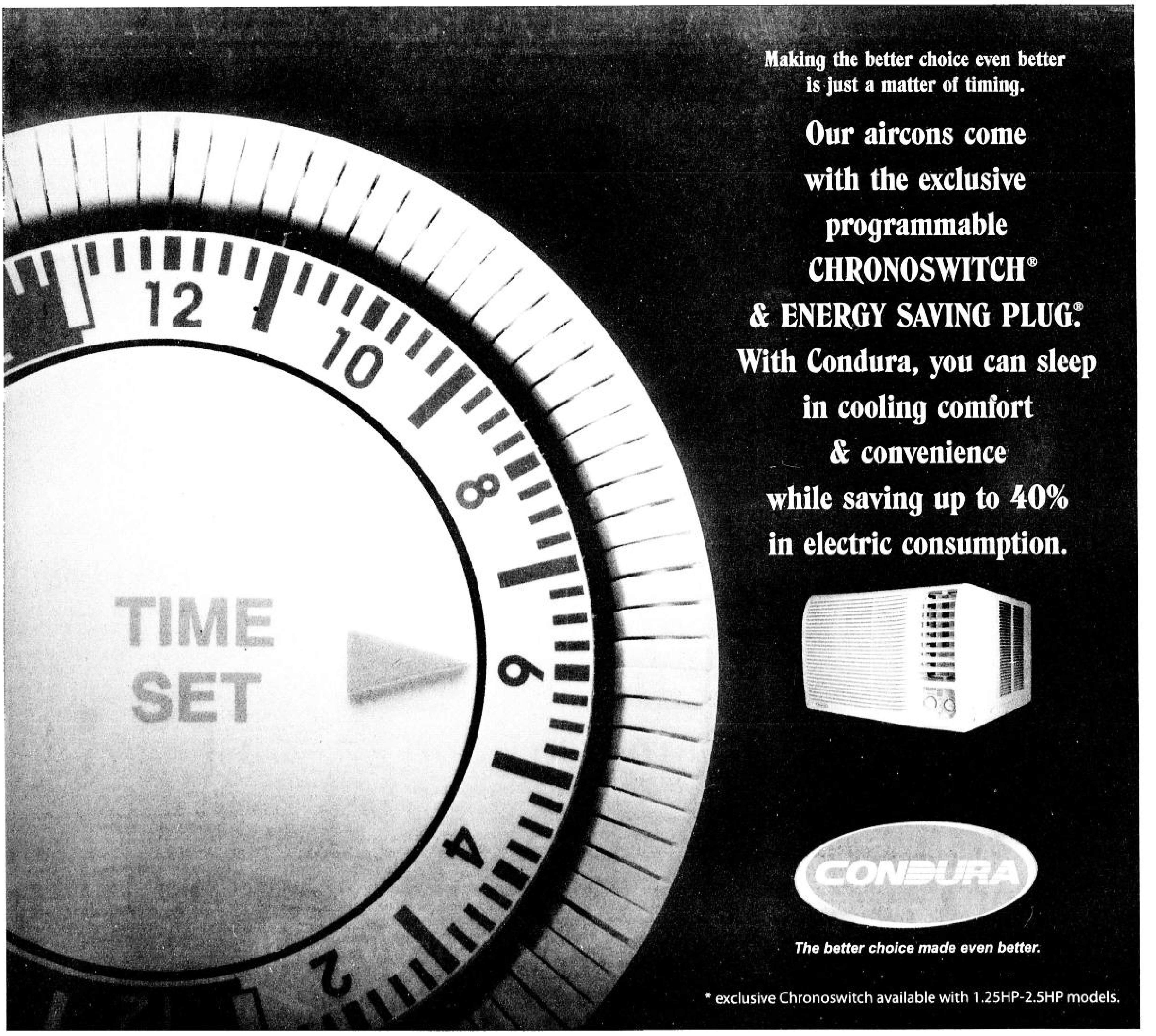
Maria Cruz, a 35-year-old Philippine native worked at Barclay's Capital as a financial analyst, and died at Faiello's clinic in April 2003, after undergoing treatment for a growth on her tongue.

Faiello admitted in Manhattan Supreme Court that when she began convulsing under an anesthetic he had administered, he failed to get her emergency medical aid.

He then stashed her body in a suitcase, sealed it in concrete in his Newark, New Jersey, home and fled to Costa Rica until he was extradited back to New York in May 2005.

Ten months after Cruz vanished, Faiello's house was sold and Cruz's body discovered under the concrete slab.

Faiello will be sentenced on Nov. 2 to 20 years in state prison. *Reuters*



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Takes 2 to tango, DENR chief tells hospital owners

By Blanche S. Rivera

"IT TAKES TWO TO tango," Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said yesterday in response to charges by hospital owners that some employes in his department were extortionists.

"Get rid of your hospital waste properly, and we will get rid of the extortionists," said Reyes, whose department is tasked with monitoring the safe disposal of over 26 tons a day of toxic and infectious waste products from health centers in Metro Manila alone.

"Let me warn both those alleged extortionists, as well as those who bribe them in order to get away with violations of environmental waste management regulations, to be ready to face the dire consequences of their actions," he said.

Reyes' warning came in the wake of claims by the Philippine Hospital Association that DENR officials in Luzon and Mindanao were demanding P50,000 to P200,000 from hospital owners almost weekly for failing to properly dispose of their infectious waste as required by law.

Complaints

PHA president Tiburcio S. Macias said hospitals in Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, Isabela and Tarlac have been complaining of extortion by DENR people. The hospitals supposedly violated or failed to comply with waste management requirements in their environmental compliance certificates.

"I ask all operators of hospitals and clinics nationwide: Please ensure the proper disposal of pathological waste so as not to endanger public health, and so as not to give unscrupulous people reasons to extort from you," Reyes said.

Metro Manila alone generates 47 tons of health care waste (HCW) daily, 56 percent of which are infectious. The volume of HCW is projected to increase to 55 tons daily by 2010, according to a study by the Asian Development Bank.

Discharge from health care facilities include general solid waste, infectious waste like stocks of infectious tissues from laboratory work and dressings from wounds; chemical waste like disinfectants and corrosive materials; sharp waste like needles, syringes and used scalpels; waste with heavy metal content; and pressurized containers.

Treatment plants

Hospitals also generate pathological waste like tissues, body fluids and body parts; genotoxic waste like urine or feces from patients treated with cytostatic drugs; pharmaceutical waste like used, expired or contaminated drugs and vaccines; and radioactive and radioactive waste or items that have been used for radioactive procedures.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said there were available treatment facilities for HCW, although these were confined to Metro Manila and Cavite. There are no treatment plants in the provinces.

"There are treaters. The question here is: Are they (hospital owners) willing to pay? Maybe part of the difficulty is not knowing who these treaters are. That's why we're trying to increase awareness," NSWMC executive director Zolio Andin said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said health care facilities that do not have access to treatment plants have alternative ways of disposing infectious waste, which are contained in the guidelines approved by the DENR and the Department of Health.

Syringes, sharp and other pathological waste may be encapsulated in a cement box and then buried in a septic vault. The cement boxes may even be stored aboveground if they are properly sealed and marked to avoid leakage or leaching, he said.

Huge investment

"Health care waste treatment is a huge investment. We need to get the private sector in here. It cannot be all government-subsidized," Andin said.

The ADB study, done in 2003, showed that of the 27 tons of daily infectious waste in Metro Manila, only seven tons were treated in facilities for hazardous waste. The 20 tons, which are also infectious or potentially infectious, are not tracked.

Reyes said the PHA should spare the majority of DENR personnel from being stigmatized by sweeping generalizations.

He challenged the PHA to name the extortionists so the DENR could take action.

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Cristina: A Sexy, Ageless Body…

Thanks to Ultrashape!

At her age of 42, Cristina Gonzalez – Romualdez has remained one of the country's sexiest moms in show business today. In fact, she discloses her secret to maintaining a sexy body like that of a 20something woman through Ultrashape!

Cristina has learned the importance of looking always at her best and in control even under pressure. "No matter how taxing work can be, I make sure not to let stress get into my nerves and make me worry. It will only take me to old age faster than I can imagine."

Her drive to stay fit comes from her fear of getting fat. "I love to dress up and to always present myself well! I know I can't look good if I'm fat. I can't play with my kids, take long walks with my husband or run around the house if I'm so big and heavy."

Feeling so lucky that she's got Marie France, Cristina doesn't have to worry about keeping a sexy figure. Problem is, her strong craving for foods like rice and pasta make her tummy expand once in a while. "Nobody notices that my tummy gets big too because it's easy to hide. But when it does, I can hide it, yes, but the bloated feeling, it's terrible."

Cristina was recently introduced to the latest slimming breakthrough in the country today – Ultrashape! She shares her views on how Ultrashape fares as compared to more drastic weight-loss procedures available, "Ultrashape is by far the best slimming treatment you can get at present! When I tried it for the first time, I already noticed how fast the result came! I easily lost 4cm after only one session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do!"

"With Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle with liposuction?!"

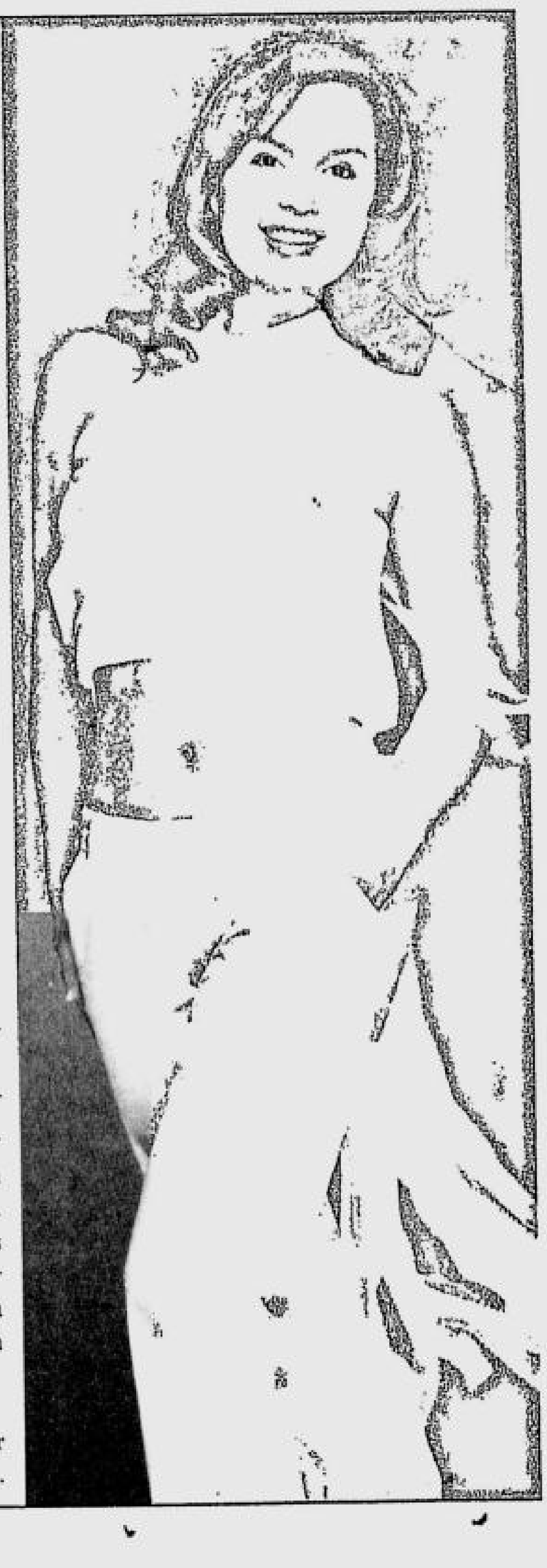
"I'm afraid of side effects. That's why I've always been apprehensive to take diet pills. You won't have any idea of what it can do to your body until it just hits you. Crash dieting doesn't work for me either. And as for liposuction, it doesn't even come close to Ultrashape as far as safety is concerned."

She justifies, "I'm scared of surgical operations in general. People I know who've given liposuction a try only say one thing – it's so painful! I also don't agree that it is the only fastest way to lose weight. With Ultrashape, you can also lose those stubborn fats in as fast as one month! Discipline is the key to everything. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle with liposuction?!"

Giving more light to her secret in having a sexy, ageless body Cristina puts in plain words, "It's the graceful acceptance of knowing what you can and cannot change. When I was in my 20s I thought 42 was already old. But then, it's not. At my age, I feel like I'm wiser. I'm happier. Because as one grows older, you also know what suits you more. You learn how to carry yourself with confidence. You learn to prioritize and enjoy life as it is. You learn how to be at peace with yourself."

Describing herself now, Cristina simply points out on one thing, "You can call me vain. That's ok with me. I don't obsess on my looks too much. It just means that I know how to take care of myself. Well, you'd be lying if you say that you don't have a certain amount of vanity in you, come on. It's just that for me, I think that it's part of my obligation to pamper myself. I deserve to be healthy. And if there will always be safer venues for me to look younger and stay slimmer like Ultrashape, life will definitely be a little less stressful, and a little more fun at 42!"

Call 894-BODY (2639) for Ultrashape – LIPO without the suction.



Euromoney poll picks PLDT Asia's best managed firm

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. was cited as the Best Managed Company in Asia in a recent survey conducted by Euromoney, the international financial magazine.

PLDT topped 223 major Asian companies nominated by 49 financial institutions and analysts worldwide in the Euromoney 2006 poll.

Aside from being adjudged the best managed, PLDT was cited in four other categories: Best Fixed Line Company in Asia, Best Cellular Company in Asia, Most Convincing and Coherent Strategy–Philippines, and Most Transparent Accounts in Asia.

The other companies that made it to the top five in the poll were Sun Hung Kai Properties of Hong Kong, second place; Bharti Telecom of India, third; CapitaLand of Singapore, fourth; and Ayala Land of the Philippines, Ping An Insurance of China and Public Bank Malaysia, all tied at fifth place.

Euromoney cited PLDT for the way it dealt with what company chair Manuel V. Pangilinan called the "tipping point" in the telecommunication industry—where the mass adoption of new technology could leave "legacy businesses" behind.

"Pangilinan describes PLDT's transformation as one from an infrastructure player to a marketing and customer-centric company," Euromoney said.

"Now, he says, the company faces another tipping point, as 3G networks spur wireless broadband and mobile and video commerce. PLDT plans to spend an additional $1 billion over the next three to four years to upgrade its technology as part of a strategy that it dubs as 'broadbanding the future.'

"Although management has said that this will put earnings growth under pressure, the market has rewarded the strategy—PLDT shares have risen 36 percent over the past 12 months," it said.

Pangilinan said the award was a big honor for PLDT.

PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno with Euromoney citation.

"This recognition has been made possible by the industry, commitment and passion of the people of PLDT. [I]t provides us fresh impetus to pursue relentless innovation, deliver excellent service to our clients and exceptional results to our shareholders," he said.

PLDT president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said the Euromoney award was testament to the Filipino's ability to excel in business.

"This recognition by the international financial community shows that Philippine business can make its mark in Asia and the world. Our innovations in technology applications and business models have helped make the Philippine telecom industry one of the most dynamic in the region and the world," he said.

In the 2005 Euromoney poll, PLDT was adjudged the Best Managed Company in the Philippines and the Best Telecom–Fixed in Asia. It also clinched second place in the Most Convincing and Coherent Strategy in Asia category, second place for Best Treatment of Minority Shareholders in Asia, and second place for Most Accessible Senior Management in Asia.

PLDT is the leading telecommunications service provider in the Philippines. It is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and its American Depository Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 9 ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE GRAPHIC OF THE MACTAN Channel prepared by the Cebu Daily News for the story—"5-year-old boy conquers Mactan Channel"—failed to give credit to Google Maps, the original source of the map.

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Caller-ID Memory*		50 stations	50 stations	50 stations	50 stations	50 stations
Ringer Melody	1 melody	14 melodies	14 melodies	10 melodies	10 melodies	14 melodies
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MILF chair charged in deadly blast

POLICE YESTERDAY CHARGED THE LEADER of the country's largest Moro rebel group with murder for his alleged role in a fatal bombing, straining already precarious government peace talks with his followers.

Ebrahim "al Haj" Murad, the chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was charged in absentia with plotting and ordering last week's blast which killed six people and wounded 30 during a town fiesta in Makilala town in North Cotabato. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

"The complaint was filed with the prosecutor's office in Kidapawan City late this afternoon," Supt. Marcelo Pintac of the criminal investigation office in North Cotabato told reporters.

Pintac said relatives of three men who died in the blast initiated the murder complaint.

At least 20 Moro rebel leaders were also charged in absentia, including Indonesian militants Dulmatin and Umar Patek, wanted for the 2002 Bali bombings who are reportedly sheltering with the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's ridiculous," Mohaqher Iqbal, the rebels' chief peace negotiator, told Reuters by phone from his hideout in Mindanao.

"That case would have an impact on the peace process. There are groups out there that want to sabotage the talks." *Reuters*

Paciencia S. Dizon; 93

PACIENCIA SIOJO DIZON OF SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan and New Manila, Quezon City, died yesterday, which would have been the 74th anniversary of her wedding to the late former Agrava Fact Finding Board member Amado Cruz Dizon. She was 93.

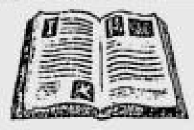
She is the grandmother of INQUIRER reporter Nikko Dizon.

She is survived by her sons, Jose and Oscar, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and siblings, Arsenio and Natividad.

Her remains lie at the Nacional Funeral Homes on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, October 18, 2006
Luke, Evangelist

1st Reading:	**2 Tim 4:10-17**
Gospel:	**Luke 10:1-9**

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'

Commentary

Paul tells Timothy that Luke has stayed faithfully with him in preaching the Gospel and in the work of evangelizing—bringing others to belief by modeling and living what is spoken and exhorted. And Luke is one of those who went forth, no staff in hand, no purse, no extra clothing, no sandals, proclaiming by their radical poverty and intense devotion to the Good News, in their own person, that the kingdom of God is in the world among us. Like the Lamb of God they go fearlessly, without protection, in twos, to prepare the way of the Lord, to go before his face. Do we remember that we too are called to go before the face of the Lord, preparing for the Word in our lives?

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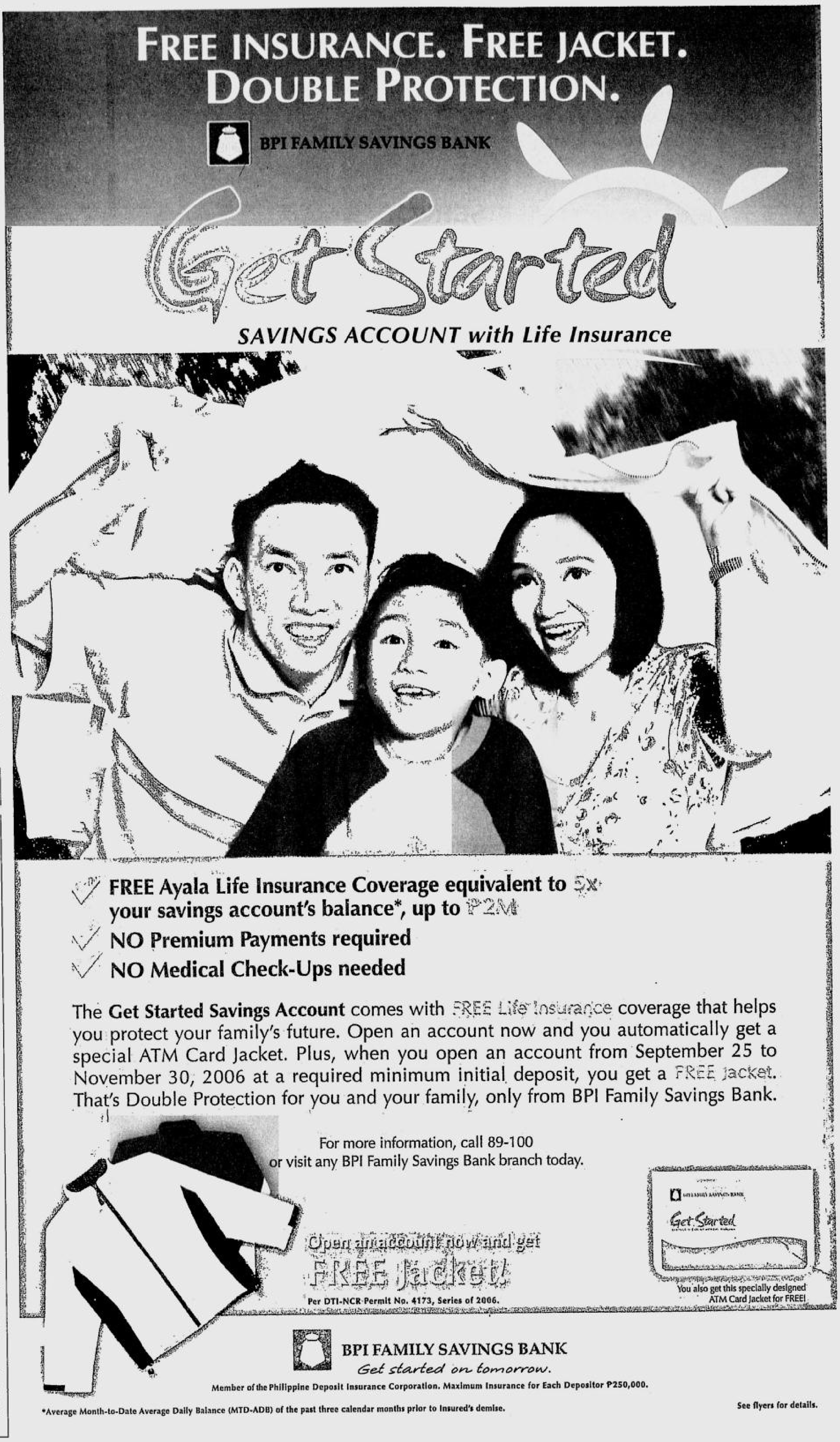

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Magsaysay: What, me testify for Joc-joc in US court?

SEN. RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR. HAS spurned a request from Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante for the senator to testify on his behalf in a Chicago court that is hearing Bolante's immigration case.

Bolante was arrested in the United States after the US embassy in Manila cancelled his US visa after the Senate ordered his arrest.

Magsaysay said Bolante's bid to draw him into his case was a "desperate act" to win asylum.

He said Bolante wanted him to testify to show that the latter's life was under threat because of the Senate arrest order.

In a strongly worded letter to Bolante's US lawyer, Magsaysay said he would have no part in a scheme to evade charges in the Philippines for the P728-million alleged fertilizer scam by seeking asylum in the US.

"I believe that Mr. Bolante has launched this new ploy to thwart the ends of justice in our home country. With all due respect, I do not want to take part in this injustice," he said.

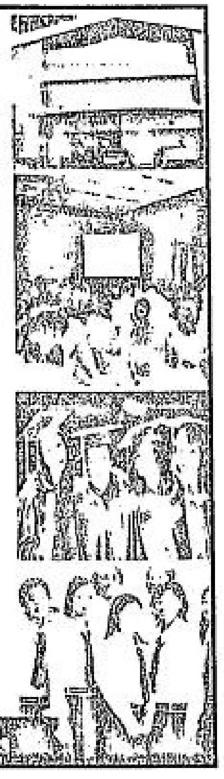
Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate agriculture committee that investigated the alleged fertilizer scam and tagged Bolante as its architect, insisted that Bolante should be deported to the Philippines to face graft and plunder charges.

Bolante's lawyer, Christian Schmidt, wrote the senator on Oct. 9 asking him to testify at a hearing scheduled for Nov. 9.

Magsaysay did not hide his irritation when he wrote back, declining Bolante's request.

"Before you even consider me as a witness for Mr. Bolante, may I remind your good law office and your client that he had deliberately evaded six public hearings of the Senate committee on agriculture and food," he said in his reply to Schmidt.

Juliet-Labog-Javellana



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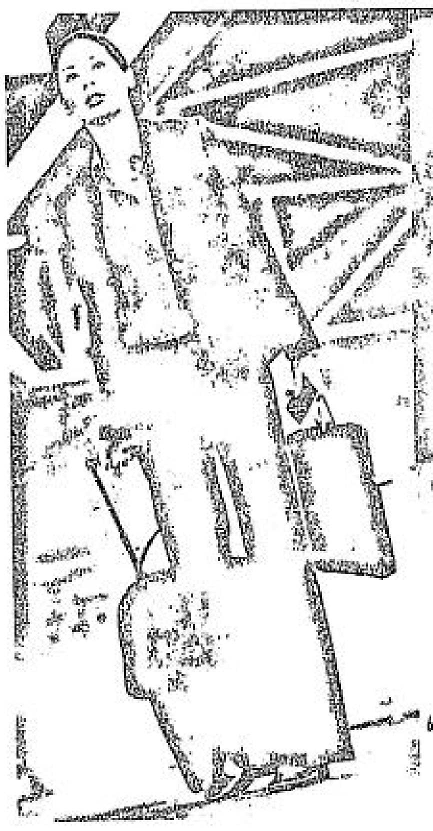

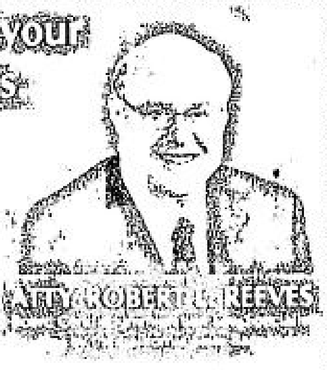

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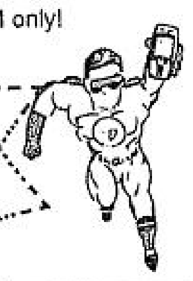

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Allah was on my side, says DILG official

From page A1

"Even when I was going there, when I was in the process of serving (the suspension order), I was continually praying," he added.

Andanar, who is the Department of the Interior and Local Government undersecretary for local government, is the one tasked with serving suspension orders on erring local executives.

He recalled that when he served a similar order recently on another known opposition leader—Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad—he had to retreat until he could get police reinforcements.

The refusal of Trinidad's supporters to give ground led to days of tension.

Prayers answered

Andanar's prayers yesterday were apparently answered. He said the Makati crowd was relatively peaceful and orderly.

Before Andanar arrived, Binay was sound asleep in his bedroom at the mayor's office, aides said. But when the truckloads of police were known to be on their way to City Hall, his staff decided to wake him up.

"When our spotters told us that cops were on their way, we decided to wake him up. We told him him that Malacañang's promise is on its way," said Binay's spokesperson, Lito Anzures. That was around 4 a.m.

At the City Hall canteen, the staff was already awake, preparing food for the mayor's supporters in anticipation of a police blockade. Gallons of water were made readily available.

Throughout the day, as Binay maintained his stance of defiance, boxes of hamburgers, carts full of juice in tetra packs, bags of roast chicken, loaves of bread and boxes of pastry streamed into the plush office to refuel Binay's security officers and staff.

The mayor's wife, Elenita, and two of his five children arrived at the 21st floor office at around 1:30 a.m.

As soon as Binay got up, he made the rounds of the building.

"We then began talking about what to do and he decided that he would go down just to assure the people that he was not abandoning them," said Anzures.

Songs of revelry

As Binay stood his ground, refusing to acknowledge Malacañang's order, a band played him songs of revelry.

Armed with drums, trombones, bugles and xylophones, 45 men in the 27th Lancers Drum and Bugle Corps showed their support for their mayor in a different way.

"Music is not always a reflection of one's mood or atmosphere. We are playing lively songs because we want to keep our fellow supporters entertained," said Emmanuel Sagarbarria, assistant band master.

They played songs such as "Let's Groove," "Fantasy" by Earth, Wind and Fire; "Maling Akala" by the Filipino reggae band Brownman Revival, and "I Saw Her Standing There" by the Beatles.

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Cancer survivor rows to victory

From page A1

ease like a badge of honor.

And those scars earned her the ticket to the prestigious event where she won four medals—three gold and one silver—in the women's races.

She won the gold in the 80-20 (80-percent survivors, 20-percent supporters) 500-meter race, the 80-20 200m, and the 100-percent 200m. The silver plum came in the 80-20 200m.

Pink and black

The memories of that experience will last her a lifetime, Sandy said.

"When I arrived at the [tournament] venue, I wanted to cry," she said, recalling the first time she stepped onto the Marina, a reclaimed piece of land, where practically everything and everyone was bathed in pink and black (the colors associated with the fight against the disease). "I kept telling myself that I was finally here, in the company of other breast cancer survivors."

Her husband Raymund, who was with her throughout the tournament and who doubled as cheerleader and flag-toter during the event, shared in the kinship that she felt with other survivors from all over the world.

"We felt that we were part of this bigger community of breast cancer survivors," he said.

The first step in this woman's journey to Singapore was nothing short of daunting.

A little over seven years ago, Sandy, then 38, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Fortunately, she was still in the first stage of the disease when it was discovered. But even when the removal part was done with, the healing process became an ordeal in itself.

As soon as she was allowed to, Sandy took up a sporting lifestyle—a throwback to her school years when she played just about every sport that she could find time for.

After a fling with badminton, she tried dragon boat racing and enlisted with the Manila Dragons team.

"She was hooked the first time she tried it. There was no stopping her," said Mylene Buenafe, the women's skipper of the team.

In June, the Manila Dragons represented the Philippines at a tournament in China. Not long afterward, Sandy's story came out in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

Documentary

On July 14, Suzette Rosales Cody, a Filipino woman married to an American, approached Sandy with an invitation from the Singapore-based Breast Cancer Foundation, to be part of a Living Asia documentary on a survivor competing in the dragon boat tournament.

Cody wanted Sandy to form a Philippine team, but the latter was hard put to do so. She could not find the required number of breast cancer survivors who could paddle.

And so Sandy went to the tournament with only her husband in tow. She had no team, no corporate sponsors, no help from the Philippines' dragon boat federation.

All she had was a little help from Cody—and her determination to show what she could do.

"I was told that I was going to be paddling with the Hong Kong squad. Then Malaysia. Then Canada, then Singapore," Sandy said, recounting how the teams had politely turned her down because their rosters were full.

"Then when I got there, they told me I would be riding with the South African squad," she said.

The day before the tournament, Sandy was listed with Dragons Abreast, a team from the Gold Coast in Australia.

Recalled Sandy: "When I joined the team, I was amused because they were a bunch of old ladies. Right there I thought we were going to have a problem, especially because there are different types of rowing techniques and theirs was obviously different from mine.

Lucky charm

But when you're someone who woke up one morning with her left breast gone, with painful scars continuously leaking fluid and taking forever to heal, fitting in posed as much of a challenge as slipping into aqua shoes.

Especially someone who, in filling up the application to join the Manila Dragons squad, ticked the box marked "competitive" under the label "Reasons for joining the team."

Soon, Dragons Abreast was winning event after event. And everyone began referring to Sandy as a lucky charm.

"[The members of the Australian team] were thanking me, but it was I who had to thank them from the bottom of my heart for taking me in because I had been rejected a lot of times," she said.

On each march to the podium, however, Sandy noticed that it was the Australian flag being hoisted onstage. She casually mentioned this to a teammate, adding: "How I wish I'd see my Philippine flag on the stand also."

There was one event left in the tournament—the marquee 100-percent 200m women's race.

Dragons Abreast was leading the race by nearly half a boat length over its closest pursuer, but the threat of disqualification loomed when its boat veered to the left and hit the New Zealand boat.

"We were quiet when we unloaded at the dock because if a protest was raised, we would be disqualified," Sandy said.

But in a show of sportsmanship, the New Zealand team did not protest, and Dragons Abreast went on to win the gold.

Sandy again ascended the stage—to see the Philippine tricolor proudly fluttering in the air.

"I felt my hair stand on end. That was when everything started to feel like a dream," she said.

More than a week after the event, Sandy still has that dreamy look on her face. And her smile still takes on a wistful turn each time she evokes images of her stint.

She plans to invite other breast cancer survivors to join the Dragons so that hopefully, when she joins next year's tournament in Australia, it will be with a Philippine team.

Hopefully, when the parade of nations starts, there'll be more than just herself and Raymund marching with the flag to the applause of two or three Filipinos in the audience.

But Sandy does not have to make a long pitch to encourage other breast cancer survivors to experience the dream.

All she has to do is fish four medals from her purse and tell them stories of triumph—stories of survivors of varying ages from all over the world, unfastening crutches and arm supports and leaving these at the dock to step into a boat and row.

And she can also sing them a song.

At one point in her retelling of her Singapore sojourn, Sandy broke into a hushed yet heartfelt rendition of the South African squad's team anthem.

Suddenly, everything fell quiet—from the sound of the water lapping at the seawall to the shuffle of passersby—to allow the unofficial soundtrack of courage to be heard.

It's like even the wind stopped to listen.

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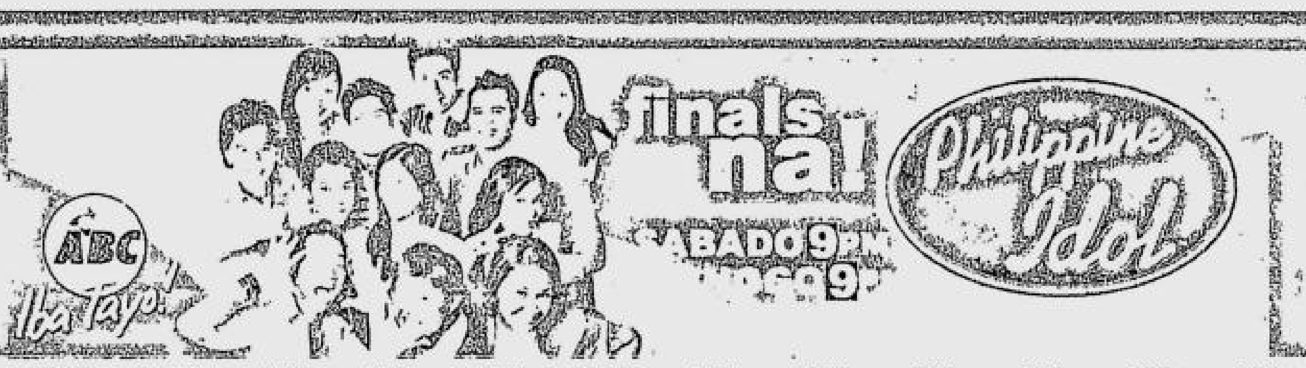
Wednesday October 18, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				PBA				Big News	PBA				Philippine Idol	Sentro	Frontlines		Araw-Araw Premyo Sa Resibo	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Probe	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Ripley's Believe it or Not		Beastmaster (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)	
bTV				NBA Special: Rivalries		WNBA Finals: Sacramento @ Detroit G3				2006 Champs League SFinals1				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Tel Aviv @ Cavaliers				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Anak Dalita				Hanggang Kailan Kita Mamahalin				Araw-Araw, Gabi-Gabi			Persona	Bulaklak Ng [illegible] (9:15 PM)				Condemned	
Cinemax			The Flash (3:45 PM)				Sleepers					The Stars Fell On Henrietta				Friday The 13th Part II (9:50 PM)			Fast Company
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Bones		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Watcher				Law Firm	
Discovery Channel	Mean Machines	Zero Hour		American Chopper		Shark Week		Kings Of Construction		Serengeti Today		Hour China		MLE: Search For The Source		A Haunting		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Women's Pro Billiards '06		UEFA Champions League 2006/07				MLB C'Ship Series Game6 (if Nec.)						Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty and the Geek Season 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey 1 & 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	EWTN Presents	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F. B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Murder 19C: Detective Murdoch Mysteries: Except The Dying			
HBO		The World According To Garp (3:15 PM)					The Wool Cap			Constantine				Wag The Dog			Anacondas: Hunt For The Blood Orchid		
Hero TV	Gundam Seed	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Amis		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Good Take	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Raw				Chust	Filter	Afterburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Food Network Special		Intimate Portrait		Style Star	Fashion Police	Martha		Isaac		Fine Living Special	
MTV Philippines		MTV Screen	VH1 Driven: Outkast		Homewrecker	Score	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	MTV Screen	TRL		Homewrecker	Score	MTV2 Kickin' It w/ Pharrell	Homecoming	VH1 & Self Magz Top 10 Rock Bodies	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Take 5	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Journey Into Amazonia		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Outback Investigation		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		The Final Say: ChaCha		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Alamid Ang Alamat				Hiram				Pusong Mamon				Ludo Margallo				Langis At Tubig
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Iron Chef		Summerland		Extreme Makeover Home Edition		Newswatch Now	Cerge For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				Fulltilt Poker		Bank of America 500 Highlights		Billiards: WC Pool		Sagupaan	Rookie Manual	ECW		Undisputed		Sportsdesk		NFL Game	
Star Movies						Dust Factory				Opening Night: Open Season	White Noise (7:20 PM)			Chasing Ghosts				Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Ed		Grey's Anatomy		NCIS		Seinfeld	Ed
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI	Las Vegas (8:15 PM)		It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		Men's Room

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

9 Army soldiers in Oakwood siege freed after 3 years in jail

By Dona Pazzibugan

NINE ARMY SOLDIERS who have been in jail for more than three years in connection with the failed July 2003 coup were ordered released yesterday by a general court martial for "insufficient" evidence.

Sergeants Michael Llamas and Dante Bulawan, Corporals Ramon Pedregosa, Alberto Garde, Jonathan Calcada, and Arnold Gregorio, and Privates First Class Ronnie Cabaltera, Marlon Cesar, and Ian Matematico were recommended for release by a Special Adjudication Board last July 20.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. approved the recommendation on July 28, a week after he became military chief, but prosecutors informed the military court of it only yesterday.

"Due to insufficiency of evidence... the prosecution panel formally moves for the dropping of charges, discharge from this trial and restoration of liberty of these individuals," said Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila of the Judge Advocate General's Office.

After a closed-door session, Air Force Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi, the court-martial president, ordered the prosecution panel to prepare an order for the soldiers' immediate release.

"There's no case against these people... We have procedures [for their release] but technically they are now free," he said.

The announcement was met with applause from the rebel junior officers who were brought before yesterday's hearing.

The nine soldiers, who are being detained at Fort Bonifacio, were not around to hear the ruling. As of press time, they had not been released.

Davila could not say why the release recommendation was not relayed to the court earlier or why it took another set of investigators to conclude that the case against the nine soldiers was weak.

The nine were not at the Oakwood Premier when the junior officers, who styled themselves as the Magdalo group, took over the hotel and the Ayala commercial center on July 27, 2003, before surrendering after a 21-hour stand-off.

Meanwhile, two other Army soldiers will continue to stand trial along with the 97 Magdalo rebel junior officers.

Davila said Esperon has denied the appeal of Cpl. Jesus Molon Jr. and Pfc. Winston Iponia to be released. But the two were allowed to avail of the same plea bargain terms given to 184 other soldiers who were freed in May 2005.

The prosecution panel also announced yesterday that "higher authorities" have rejected a plea bargain offer 59 rebel junior officers made last April.

Senate to dance Cha-cha, literally

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE IS ready to Cha-cha. Literally, that is.

This afternoon, senators and Senate employees will kick off threats to their abolition by holding a four-hour "ballroom dancing extravaganza" to celebrate the Senate's 90th anniversary.

The Senate will be abolished under the Malacañang-backed Charter change to shift from the presidential-bicameral form of government to a parliamentary-unicameral system.

Senate President Manuel Villar approved the dancing extravaganza as part of the Senate's weeklong celebration of its nine decades of existence.

Most of the senators, however, were abroad this week since Congress is on a three-week break. Villar is in Geneva, along with seven other senators, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the biggest annual junket for legislators.

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Binay defies suspension order of DILG

From page A1

licemen—including antiriot squads, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams and firetrucks—arrived like an invasion force at City Hall with the official notice suspending him from office.

The Malacañang order was based on a complaint filed against Binay and his fellow officials by a political rival who accused them of padding the city payroll with more than 1,000 "ghost employees."

The supposed scam allegedly defrauded the local government of more than P113 million in 2005 and over P50 million from January to June this year.

The 60-day preventive suspension, served by Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar, wiped out the entire city administration.

Besides Binay, 17 others—Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and the 16 councilors, including Binay's son, Jejomar Erwin—were also hit by the Palace axe.

INVASION FORCE, or so it seems as about 1,000 cops arrive at the old Makati City Hall to escort Interior Undersecretary Wenceslao Andanar to serve the suspension order and later, to secure the acting mayor. EDWIN BACASMAS

Cory vows support

Within hours, support arrived in the form of other opposition stalwarts, including former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, senators and congressmen, including Makati Representatives Agapito "Butz" Aquino and Teodoro Locsin Jr., and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

The opposition claimed Ejercito could be the next target of Malacañang's offensive supposedly directed at critics of Ms Arroyo.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno denied the allegation.

Aquino arrived at around 10:50 a.m. with daughter Ballsy Cruz and grandson Jiggy Cruz. During her 15-minute visit, she assured Binay of her support.

"We should show that we are all for justice ... Jojo, you can count on my support and prayers. We should all pray for justice," said Mrs. Aquino, calling Binay by his nickname.

"We all see his goodness to his constituents, especially to the students, to those in need of health care ... He showed that he could take care of his constituents. I think he is a role model for all mayors," she said of Binay, who first became mayor when she was in Malacañang.

Erap, too

Ousted President Joseph Estrada called from detention in Tanay, Rizal, also to express support.

Denied access, officials of the Department of the Interior and Local Government took control of the old city government building across from the new imposing edifice.

Order 'highly irregular'

The mayor's camp had anticipated the suspension order since last week. The order, spurred by an administrative complaint filed by arch political rival Roberto Brillante, came at 7 a.m. yesterday.

Work in the city government came to a halt as the mayor's supporters made their stand inside the building and closed the shutters on the ground floor, opening them only to receive members of media, city officials loyal to Binay and boxes of takeout food.

Binay, up for reelection next year, has been a staunch administration critic, leading rallies in the financial capital calling for the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

He has also been outspoken against the Palace-backed moves to amend the Constitution, which, the President's critics said, were aimed at ensuring her political survival in the face of the scandals that have rocked her administration.

"If I can just burn this order ... The order is highly irregular and illegal because the grounds for suspension are not true, all of them," Binay said, holding a copy of the document.

The mayor said he would remain in his office until the Court of Appeals resolves his petition, filed on Friday, which seeks a temporary restraining order to prevent the DILG and the Office of the President from acting on Brillante's complaint.

The petition demanded that Brillante identify the supposed ghost employees he had complained about.

Binay said the complaint was "like accusing someone of theft without saying what was stolen."

The Malacañang-designated officer in charge (OIC)—Rodolfo Feraren, DILG director for the National Capital Region—said he expected to hold Binay's post for two months. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Binay's army

When he arrived with the suspension order, Andanar was met by around 100 Binay supporters who had gathered at the City Hall quadrangle as early as 1:30 a.m. Unable to see the mayor, he read out the order instead to Mercado.

By 8:40 a.m., the crowd peaked to around 2,500, many holding up placards professing loyalty to the mayor.

Binay himself had spent Monday night at City Hall.

Puno justifies order

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said he received the Malacañang directive, signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and ordering the suspension of Binay and the others, "at the close of office hours on Monday."

"There are two reasons for the preventive suspension. One, to avoid the disruption or otherwise tampering of evidence. Two, to preserve the resources and assets ... against the continuing commission of whatever offenses are alleged," Puno told reporters.

He said issuing the order before the start of office hours "only makes sense."

"When office hours start, after one or two hours, a document (may be) tampered with. You would not have served the purpose of the preventive suspension," Puno said.

"In the same manner, during office hours, (if) an additional number of ghost employees manage to collect salaries, the damage to the government (will have) been increased. Timing is important," he added.

No politics involved

Puno denied that the DILG was playing politics, saying its job was to implement orders from the Office of the President, the courts and the Ombudsman.

"In the past, we had suspended mayors who were allied with the administration ... This is to dispel allegations of politicking," Puno said. *(Related story on Page A1.)*

DILG officials said the Ombudsman recently suspended mayors identified with the administration, like Braulio Yaranon of Baguio City, Rudueldo Beldana of Lemery in Batangas, and Jerry de la Cerna of Generoso in Davao Oriental.

Puno said Binay need not leave City Hall.

GMA's powers

"We don't want to go into the business of evicting people," Puno said, adding that all the department was concerned with was the continuation of the business of public service.

If the Court of Appeals upholds the respondents' petition for a TRO, they will be back at the helm, Puno said.

If it junks the case, he said, Malacañang might exercise its "residual powers" to appoint acting local executives.

"As in the case of Pasay City, where almost all the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod (city council) were suspended along with the mayor and vice mayor, the President would have to exercise her residual appointive powers under the Constitution in naming the replacements for the suspended members," Puno said.

Crippling the opposition

Others who came to express support for Binay were Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Jinggoy Estrada; former Education Secretary Florencio Abad; Representatives Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, Hermilando Mandanas, Imee Marcos, Lisa Maza of Gabriela and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis; former Sen. Ernesto Maceda; Mayors JV Ejercito of San Juan and Toby Tiangco of Navotas, and members of the Black and White Movement and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"What they do is suspend elected officials, ignoring the people's right to choose their leaders," said Ejercito.

Osmeña said: "This is part of (a) plan ... Because if they can cripple the leading leaders of the opposition, nobody will be left. There are only a few opposition leaders left in the local government."

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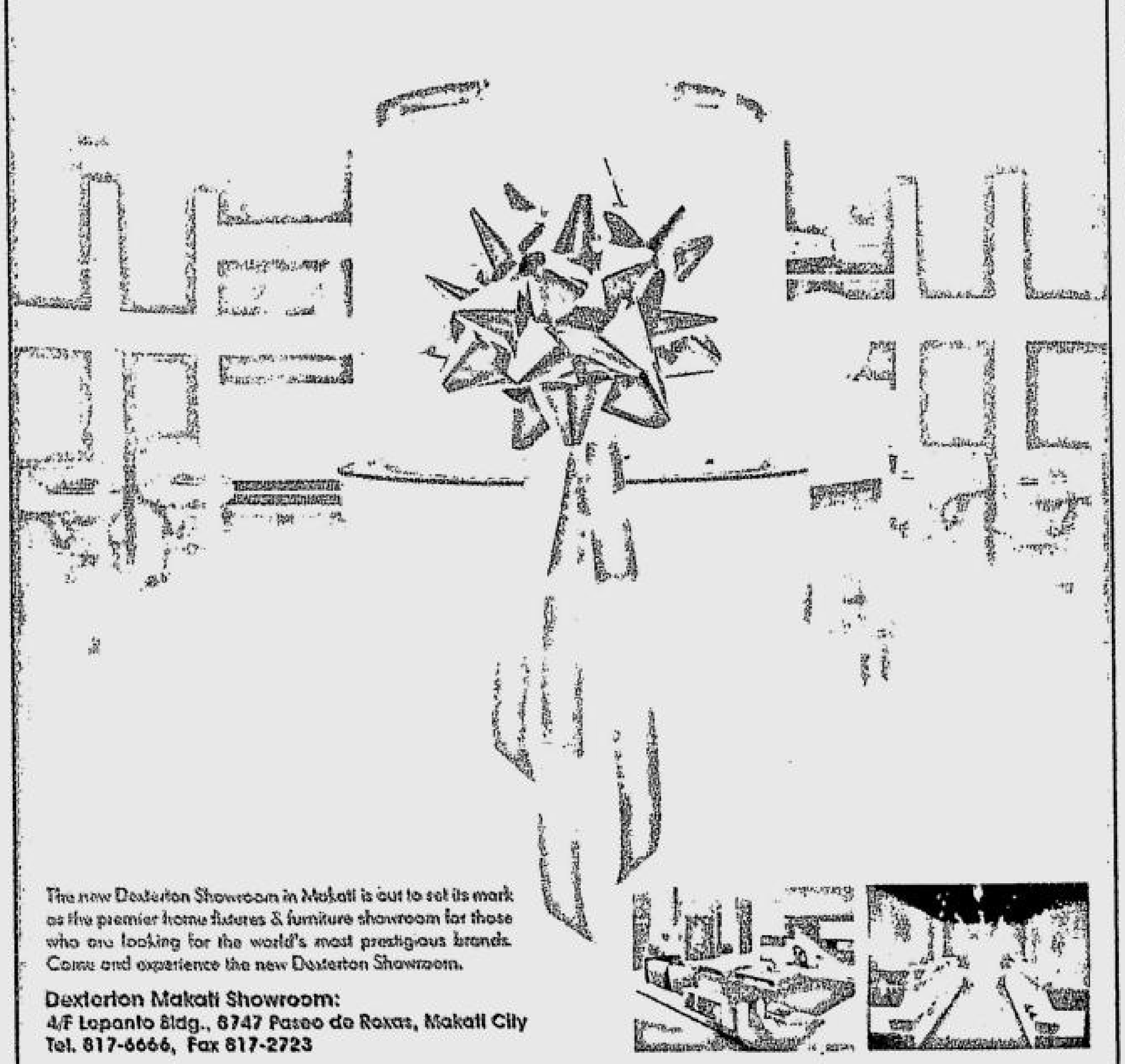

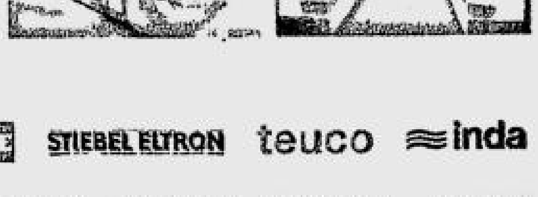

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Palace: It's not political, we're fair, no favoritism

From page A1

coddling others supporting her. It's time to use all licit moves to check her abuses," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Palace 'crooks'

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said: "It would be best for the administration to rethink its policy of clamping down on legitimate political dissent. It should exercise greater restraint in dealing with those critical of its policies and programs."

Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., a Binay ally, also expressed outrage over the suspension.

"There are crooks in Malacañang targeting Makati because they want to steal the P6 billion to P8 billion of its annual income. Once they have taken over, they can capture the money and pocket it," said Locsin, who represents the city's first district.

Enunciating a prevailing opposition sentiment, party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva asked: "How can we respect any attempt of this administration to handle alleged graft and corruption cases, and with such fanfare, when charges of corruption against other officials and friends of the powers-that-be are not only swept under the rug but are nipped in the bud?"

Bunye cited the suspension of Mayor Jose Catindig Jr. of Sta. Rosa City in Laguna; National Printing Office Director Felipe Evardone, and Rafael Dante Cruz, general manager of the government-owned Radyo ng Bayan.

Not familiar with cases

Asked why high-profile officials, like Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, had not been suspended even though they were facing administrative complaints, Bunye said: "I'm not familiar with their cases."

Bunye said he was aware of the impact of the suspension of the mayor of the country's main financial district.

"We are following the law and that, I think, is what is more important. If there are any complaints, these complaints will be investigated according to existing laws and any appropriate action will be done," he said.

Bunye said investors would understand that the government's action against Binay was part of "due process" and that everything was according to "procedures."

He said the action on Binay showed that "concerned parties will not lose recourse in the law, they have access to all legal avenues" under the Arroyo administration.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government suspended Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and 16 councilors on the basis of an administrative complaint filed by a political rival claiming that the longtime city mayor employed "ghost" employees.

"We are not taking a ruling as to the guilt of the parties involved. This preventive suspension is part of a process to facilitate and speed up the investigation," Bunye said.

A 'chilling' message

House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo said Ms Arroyo was sending a "chilling message to all local government units that they should not criticize the rotten administration."

Added party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran: "Who will believe that in all this the DILG is just performing its duty as a supposed guardian and watchdog against corruption in the LGUs?"

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the move against Binay was "illegal, unjust, baseless" and showed that Malacañang was out to "wipe out" the opposition before the 2007 elections.

Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino urged the Court of Appeals to issue a temporary restraining order.

"They're trying to frighten the opposition with dubious charges and eliminate the popular ones before next year's elections," Aquino said.

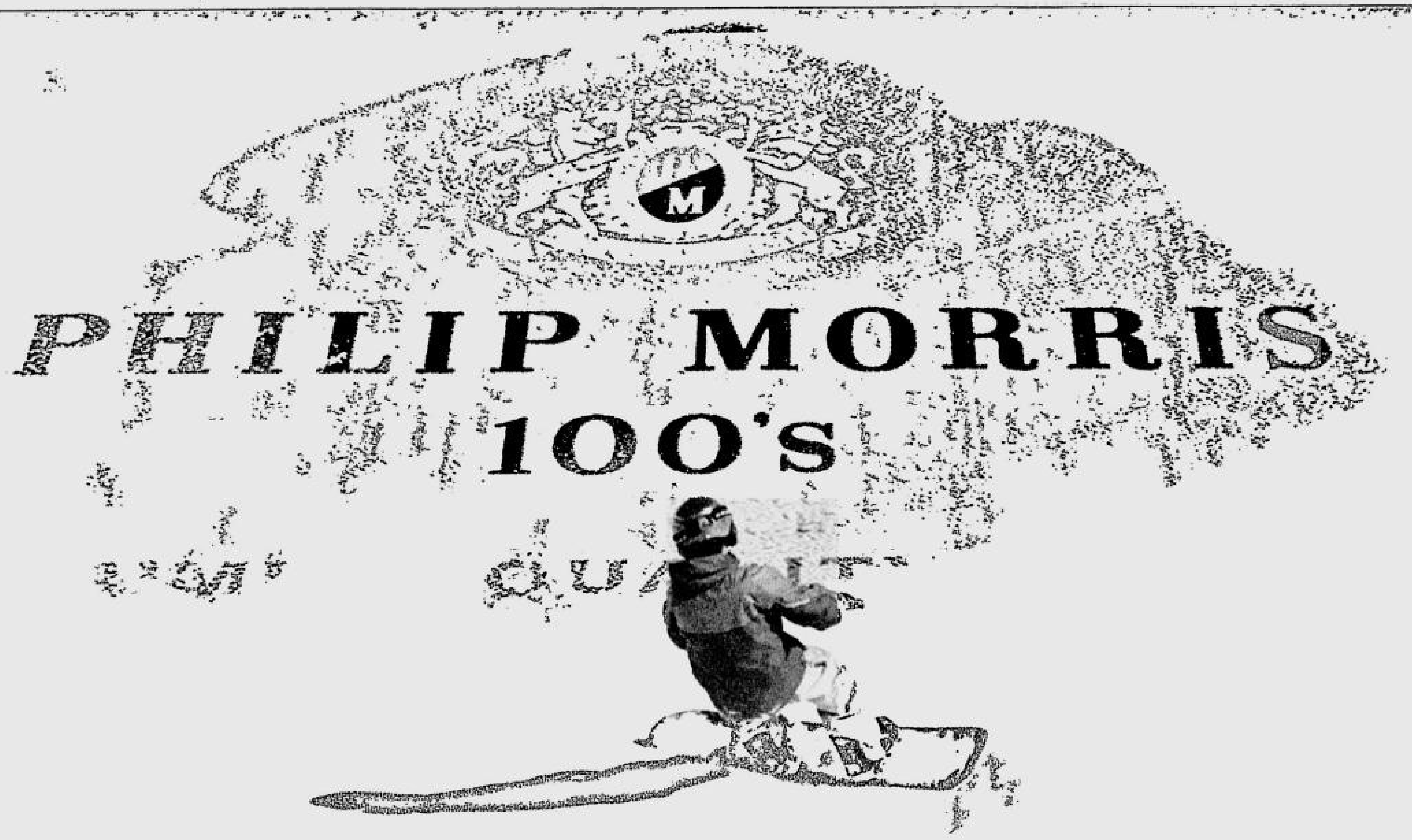
"The fascist Arroyo regime is exploiting every opportunity ranging from political killings to the filing of trumped-up rebellion cases, libel, down to the issue of ghost employees, in a vain attempt to gag her most vocal critics," said Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano.

'Heed suspension'

Administration lawmakers, however, called on Binay to heed the suspension order and avoid a clash with authorities.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso dismissed as "unfair and untrue" claims that the suspension was aimed at persecuting the opposition.

The two lawmakers said there was a "legitimate complaint" against Binay which the government was only giving due course to. The lawmakers urged the mayor to defend himself through the legal process and "avoid political antics which may only result in chaos and deadlock." *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza*



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Quantity	Prize	Cash Prize for Store/Outlet Owner
1	Trip for 2 to any winter destination	Php 75,000
10	Sony Ericsson K800i mobile phones	Php 10,000 each
30	Sony DSC-W50 digital cameras	Not applicable
80	Oakley Spike eyewear	Not applicable
120	Samsonite Inventure Duffle Bag	Not applicable

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than December 25, 2006. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement

10. Store/outlet owners have a chance to win cash prizes only for the Trip, Sony Ericsson W900i and Sony Cybershot T5 prizes. To qualify, the store/outlet owner must be at least 18 years old. In the event that the winner is also the store/outlet owner, he or she gets to win both the corresponding prize and the cash prize for the store/outlet.

11. If a winning entry does not bear the name and address of the store/outlet, the entry will still be valid but no store/outlet winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.

12. Prizes for winning adult smokers and store/outlet owners will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

13. The grand prize (Trip for 2 to any winter destination) is non-transferable, but is convertible to cash. In the event the winner fails to secure/ complete necessary documents for the trip such as passport or visa, and/ or does not want to take the trip, the monetary equivalent of the trip which is Php 500,000 shall be awarded. The Php 500,000 will be paid to the winner via check. Minor prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

14. Grand prize winner should avail of the trip before December 30, 2007. They will be provided roundtrip air transportation to the country of choice, accommodations, regular daily meals, local transportation and other provisions as may be determined by PMPMI. Total cost for the trip for 2 should not exceed Php 500,000

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- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

19. In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to PMPMI, he/she must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity; and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city

20. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy. The proxy should be able to present the following:
- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 18)
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
- Original copy of the notification telegram from PMPMI.

21. Except as expressly provided in paragraph 10, an entrant can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn

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Putsch in Makati

EDITORIAL

THE LAST THING MAKATI CITY, AS THE FINANCIAL capital of the country, needs is a guerrilla war. But that is precisely the situation there now.

Among the many things Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is known—and often disliked—for, cowardice is not one of them. It seems obvious that Binay will not go down without a fight. Regardless of the merits or demerits of the charges against him, Binay can count on his own native feistiness combining with a mass constituency that likes him, regardless of the misgivings of an upper class that has learned to reach a kind of modus vivendi with him, just as he has learned to sort things out with them.

After last year's demonstrations in Makati calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster incensed businessmen and workers, Binay responded by putting an end to the disruptive demonstrations. Now any disruptions motivated by politics can be laid firmly not at his doorstep, but the President's. After all, it is not only Binay, but the entire city government, from the vice mayor down to the council members, that has been suspended. There hasn't been such a thorough elimination of a local government's power structure since 1986 after Ferdinand Marcos was toppled from the presidency. But then, the country was in a revolutionary situation. Today, the only thing revolutionary about the goings-on in Makati is the breathtaking boldness of the Palace's actions.

And for what? For the cause of good government? Or perhaps more accurately, in the interest of proving a political point for the Palace? The wholesale suspension comes even as Binay tried to head off what was coming by asking for the Court of Appeals to intervene. But while the administration waited for that court to decide in the case of nursing graduates, it couldn't wait in the case of Binay. But then again, the ban on any such suspensions within 90 days of the beginning of the campaign period for next year's elections will soon kick in. Naturally, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita disputes this, but this only suggests that there is much the courts could sort out before the Palace acted precipitously.

What has taken place is, for all intents and purposes, an administrative putsch. We have condemned the tendency of beleaguered local officials to barricade themselves in their offices in the past. Whether for genuinely meritorious reasons, or simply due to political vendetta, questions of leadership in local governments ought to be settled according to law, in the courts. The citizenry shouldn't be held hostage by leadership fights of this nature.

But this is precisely what the administration has guaranteed, not only by suspending Binay but the entire city government. Only chaos can ensue when an entire city's administration is decapitated in this manner. Every ongoing project and service will be left in disarray, as the Palace appoints its officers in charge and a hand-picked council. For business and workers, who both crave predictability and have learned to adapt to the now-eliminated powers-that-be, uncertainty can only be the name of the game. And uncertainty is always disastrous.

We cannot underestimate the fallout from this coup. The signal this sends, of course, politically is that the Arroyo administration will not allow anything to stand in the way as it wages a vendetta against its enemies. Neither an iron-clad political constituency nor appeals to the rule of law are relevant. The economy and the tranquility of the business climate are secondary. Past precedent is no obstacle. And it doesn't matter whether the actual merits of charges—in this case, allegations of ghost employees in the Makati City Hall—end up unfairly discredited if they can be used for partisan ends.

As the country awaits the Supreme Court's verdict on the people's initiative petition, and certain quarters brace themselves to possibly fight it out in a plebiscite, the need to eliminate Makati City as an opposition bailiwick is so obvious as to fatally taint any justifications for the political takeover of that city. And yet it has come to pass.

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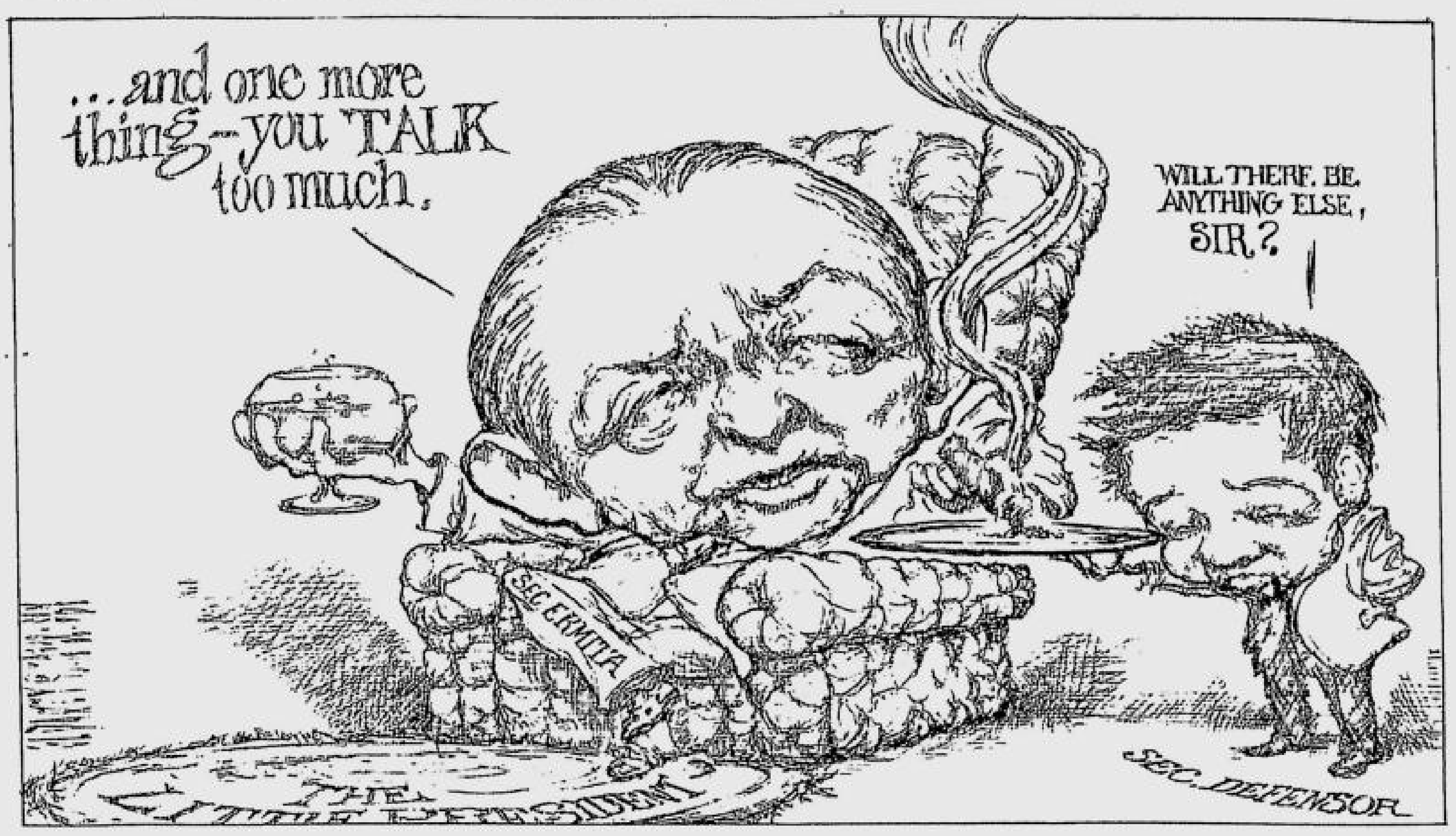
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Mother of all scams worth P8 billion

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE NURSING EXAMS LEAKAGE AND JOC-Joc Bolante's fertilizer scam are not over yet and here we are with another multibillion-peso scam in the making. You have to hand it to the congressmen or the budget department to come up with new ideas to get their hands on billions of pesos in taxpayers' money. It used to be the Countrywide Development Fund and its many variations of the pork barrel. Now it is a "feeding program" for millions of schoolchildren, and the P728-million fertilizer scam or even the P1.3-billion Mega Pacific deal are dwarfed in comparison. This is going to be the mother of all scams!

This "feeding program" will cost Juan de la Cruz almost P8 billion at the end of 2007. Congress has already approved a supplementary budget of P2.625 billion for the Department of Education and P270 million for the Department of Social Welfare and Development for this. The earlier success only prompted the administration's bright boys to ask for more. They have now appropriated P4.0113 billion for the DepEd and P1.085 billion for the DSWD in the P1.1 trillion budget for 2007. These are in addition to their regular budgets; they are only for the alleged feeding program.

The developing scam was exposed by Sen. Edgardo Angara at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday.

The money is to be spent to import one million tons of rice, allegedly to be given to schoolchildren to take home. Angara believes that it is going to be another huge pork barrel to be used to buy votes in next year's election campaign. Also, huge commissions are given by the rice exporters to agents of the importers. How much is a modest 5 percent of P8 billion?

Some people in the administration will get very fat on this feeding program. Schoolchildren are being used as the excuse, but in reality it would feed the pockets of the lucky "commissioners."

We cannot deny that many schoolchildren are malnourished. Many of them drop out or don't learn because they are often hungry. But the answer to that is to feed them nutritious food in school. Giving them rice to take home won't do them much help, Angara said, because rice is just starch.

Children used to be fed with enriched nutribuns in school. That was sensible—the nutribuns did not only nourish the children, they also encouraged them to go to school. What's wrong with that? Why change that with this rice-import program?

Senators suspect that certain rice merchants have a large stockpile of old rice which they are willing to sell at a bargain and certain smart guys in the administration plan to buy them at an overprice—then run laughing all the way to the bank.

If the Philippine government is willing to spend nearly P8 billion to subsidize rice farmers and merchants from other countries, why not use that money to subsidize Filipino rice farmers to encourage them to produce more rice? Angara asked.

* * *

For his part, Sen. Alfredo Lim, reacting to the signature campaign of journalist groups asking Congress to decriminalize libel, told the Kapihan he had such a bill pending in the Senate since 2004. He distributed copies of his bill and told the journalists to urge the other senators to schedule it for deliberations. He said that if his proposed amendment to the libel law is passed, it would apply even to libel cases already filed and even those still being tried.

By the way, the former mayor of Manila, who still has three years to go as senator, confirmed earlier that he would run for mayor again next year. Asked why he wanted to leave the Senate, Lim replied: "It is just *daldalan* blues there. I want action."

Who will be his running mate? Answer: "I'm looking for a woman to be my running mate." Do we see a Lim-Imelda tandem?

* * *

Still on libel, lawyer Jesus Santos, counsel of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, faxed a reaction to my column on libel last Monday. Here are portions of his letter:

"If the libel law violates the Constitution, then steps must be taken to repeal or erase the provisions of the law that violates the Constitution. [But] why this sudden uproar of journalists over the need to decriminalize libel as reaction to the alleged libel-filing spree by FG Atty. Mike Arroyo?

"There were so many libel cases filed before and still many more to be filed in the future as long as there are complainants who cannot be threatened or harassed to become victims of extortion.

"Re; your opinion that the 'First Gentleman is a public figure and therefore is public property who cannot sue for libel, according to American jurisprudence.' To hell with this American jurisprudence. This is a misnomer. Never in the cases of Marcos vs. Time, Cory vs. Louie Beltran, and Philippine Star, Binay vs. Brillante and most recently Carlo So vs. Tulfo et al., was this issue that a public figure cannot sue for libel ever raised.

"As to the accused who forgets to defend himself or is declared in default, the accuser is allowed to present his evidence ex parte and the conviction is based on the evidence presented. If the evidence is not enough to convict then the case will be dismissed.

"However, if the evidence presented is enough in accordance with law, then he will be convicted whether he appears or not in the trial of the case."

Isn't it a denial of due process if the accused is not allowed to defend himself?

Opposition

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

AS I WRITE THIS, THE OFFICIAL GOONS OF Malacañang, also called the Philippine National Police, are swarming all over Makati City Hall trying to pry Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay loose from his office. They are serving the order issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government suspending him for hiring ghost employees, something that is allegedly costing Makati taxpayers millions of pesos. Binay has holed up in his office, and so far the scene reads like a standoff. The police do not seem inclined to storm in and haul him out, and Binay seems determined to stay where he is. How this thing will unravel, we'll know soon enough.

An interior undersecretary who spoke on TV said in unctuous tones that this wasn't a case of harassment, this was a case of principle. It didn't matter that Binay was quite a thorn on Malacañang's side, it was simply that he had done something wrong. This was simply a case of crime and punishment. You commit a crime, you get punished.

Has Binay really been hiring ghost employees? I don't know. I leave that to the courts to determine. But what makes this effort to yank Binay out of his chair breathtakingly odious is the hypocrisy suffusing it. It is not unlike a judge who has managed to own a row of mansions and a congregation of mistresses from extorting money from litigants sentencing a man who has stolen a loaf of *pan de sal* to life imprisonment. The injustice is that monumental.

Yes, that is the exact equivalent of Malacañang's effort to oust Binay as mayor of Makati, a horrendously corrupt judge sentencing a petty thief to life imprisonment. No, more than imprisonment, to lethal injection. You grant that Binay hired ghost employees—and that takes some granting, certainly Ronaldo Puno's DILG is the last entity to judge that, since Puno himself has much to answer for—that is still petty thievery compared to what the very head of this government has done. This is the kind of injustice that cries out to heaven for lightning and to the gallery for jeering.

At the very least, what's wrong with it is that Binay is an elected official while Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is the source of this scourge, is not. Binay got the votes, and despite grumbling by his rivals about his use of force and money, they grant that he pretty much won the elections. GMA's opponents do not just grumble, they show proof she stole the electoral returns in Tawi-Tawi and other places. That is quite apart from the damning piece of evidence called the "Hello Garci" tape. Binay is not the first person this government has ousted from office. The fact that this government can even remotely contemplate it, let alone actually do it, is a testament to the ruthlessness it is capable of. There are no limits to where it will go. There is no embarrassment it will not brook.

At the very most, what is Binay's crime compared to GMA's? Binay hired ghost employees? Let us grant that that is so. But what is that compared to counting ghost votes? Binay stole millions from the taxpayers, money that could have gone to various services? Let us grant that that is so. But what is that compared to stealing the electoral will, which could have gone to installing a rightful president, one the people can trust to serve them? Binay robbed the residents of Makati of their wellbeing, thereby betraying public trust? Let us grant that that is so. But what is that compared to robbing this country of its soul, razing down the very foundations of democracy, its chief pillar being a duly elected leader, and murdering this country's future, quite apart from a good portion of its population?

You commit a crime you get punished? Why hasn't GMA been punished? Why is it the easiest thing for the DILG to oust an elected mayor for a presumed malfeasance and the hardest thing in the world for Congress to impeach an unelected president for a patent atrocity?

In fact, the suspension of Binay, as of the other elected officials of Metro Manila, is just part of a bigger atrocity government is wreaking on this country today. The pattern is for government to punish selectively those people it doesn't like who are guilty of committing the very crimes it is guilty of, indeed far more so.

GMA spawned the mother of all cheating in this country when she called up Garci demanding to win by a million votes, yet she deigns—no, dares—to interfere in the nursing exams to ferret out the cheaters there. GMA mounted a coup upon this country by stealing the vote, which is as much a seizure of power as the forcible acquisition of it by troops and tanks, and propped it up with no small help from friends in the military and police and Joe de V's House, with coercion and guile. Yet she deigns—no, dares—accuse Dodong Nemenzo et al. of fomenting, or indeed joining, a revolt against her. And GMA has never won a presidential election but remains in Malacañang notwithstanding survey after survey that says the people do not like her or want her. Yet now she deigns—no, dares—boot elected officials from their rightful office.

At the very least, what this does for her is to allow her to remove any opposition from the horizon—especially with elections down the corner. But far more than that, far more subtly but weightily, what this does for her is to deodorize her, to make it appear by the very righteousness or cheekiness or brazenness with which she is doing these things that she could not possibly be guilty of the crimes she means to correct. That she could not possibly be a cheater, that she could not possibly be a coup plotter, that she could not possibly be a usurper. Evil riots, the good are damned and the malefactors are king—or queen.

We do not protest the monstrosity in Makati with every nerve of our being, as though we are being robbed of breath itself, heaven help us. Nothing else can.

Bottom line of media takeover

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BOLTING OUT OF THE BLUE, THE ADMINISTRATION, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, has moved up in the national agenda the proposal to open up the Philippine mass media to foreign ownership.

Why this contentious issue has suddenly acquired high priority invites curiosity, given that this proposal has been in the cards of reforms lined up for constitutional revisions, concerning its nationalistic economic provisions. It is part of the package of economic proposals ready to be pushed to the assembly line when the time comes.

It therefore appears that the government is ensuring that the proposal on media does not miss the express train as it steps up its campaign for the shift to the parliamentary system, and as it consolidates its package of economic liberalization reforms to go with political reforms. In this circumstance, this issue has been revived at the wrong time.

Although there appears no urgency to tinker with media ownership at the moment, it does provoke serious consideration. Media ownership is an issue which is extremely sensitive to Filipino nationalism.

In proposing the opening up of media to foreign interests, the administration has presented it as an economic issue (that is, inviting foreign investment to provide capital for the introduction of technology innovations). In accenting the economic aspect, the administration evades the nationalist issue that has underlined media ownership since the 1935 Constitution.

It is not clear whether the administration seeks to allow 100 percent foreign ownership. The media are one of the few remaining bastions of Filipino ownership along with the control of natural resources, utilities and the national patrimony, within the nationalistic framework of the 1935 Constitution breached by the Parity Amendment in 1946.

This framework and philosophy have come under increasing attacks from groups seeking the integration of the Philippine economy into globalization schemes. The recent opening up of the mining industry to wider participation by foreign investments represents a cave-in to these pressures or a recognition by the government and even by the Supreme Court that wider foreign participation in the exploitation and extraction of the national patrimony is essential to national development.

It is puzzling why the administration is concerned over the input of foreign investment in raising the standards of both print and electronic media in the Philippines, when that has always been the concern of the private media industry. In elevating the standards of technology in media and their capacity to absorb technological innovations, Filipino media owners have responded dynamically to the challenges of technology.

The argument therefore that it needs large infusions of foreign capital to improve Philippine media standards of dissemination of information does not wash. It is a wrong argument that conceals the lack of understanding by the government of the dynamic of Philippine media as an industry and as an institution that involves dissemination of ideas essential to an informed public opinion in a democracy.

The government's concern arose in the context of its more pressing problems with the media over non-economic and non-investment issues. These problems have something to do with first, press freedom, and, secondly, the unabated killings of journalists, with the country having one of the highest death tolls in the world. These cannot be solved by constitutional reforms on media ownership or a takeover of Philippine media organizations by foreign groups.

If, for example, restrictions on media control and ownership were dismantled, it becomes a possibility that foreign multimedia magnates, like Rupert Murdoch, the Canadian Conrad Black, or the remaining American press barons would buy into Philippine media and integrate their local titles to their global media empire. With that globalized linkage, the Philippine media would truly be transformed into a borderless and anonymous segment of the international media community whose command centers are located in New York, London, Paris, or maybe Tokyo.

Surely, assuming a Murdoch buy into the Philippine media, his empire could pump capital into upgrading the technological capacity and quality of, let's say the INQUIRER, ABS-CBN or GMA-7, to make them more competitive. The local titles can be incorporated into a larger global network. Possibly, the papers and the TV programs will look nicer, slicker and more internationalized and homogenized.

But there's a trade-off. The downside is that in these takeovers, network news directors and newspaper editors will be taking their orders from Murdoch and his executives, on their editorial slant, no longer from the owners of GMA-7, ABS-CBN or Filipino proprietors of newspapers. As is well known, Murdoch is an interventionist proprietor who calls the shots in all his papers in London, Australia, New York and Fox News. Foreign media interests play their politics globally, putting pressure on foreign governments to spread and promote their influence and power.

With this integration, the end result as far as Filipino journalists are concerned, are bound to lose their editorial autonomy and citizenship identity to foreign bosses sitting in corporate board rooms whose executives are beyond the reach of Philippine laws, especially criminal libel, to which Filipino journalists are still accountable.

This is how the media takeover by foreign investors will work out on the level of the journalists.

Why Liz Revillame is 'lucky'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BEFORE WOMEN'S GROUPS DECIDED TO ORGANIZE around the issue of domestic violence, in the eyes of the law and of law enforcers, it was a "non-issue," a private matter that was best resolved in the privacy of the home and between the partners.

Women told of calling up the police to report their battering at the hands of husbands or partners, only to be told that the police couldn't interfere because it was "*away mag-asawa*" (a quarrel between spouses), that the women should just sleep it off and forgive their husbands.

Worse, the women themselves—and other women—bought the argument wholeheartedly. Even battered women believed the violence was somehow their fault, that they did or said something that set off the beating, and thus shared part of the blame. Other women blamed the victims, believing that they were either "stupid" for putting up with the violence, or "*matigas ang ulo*" or hardheaded and so somehow deserving of the husband's physical "discipline."

Such a situation would probably have continued if women's groups had not decided to raise the issue of domestic violence to the national agenda. Alarming statistics were presented, showing that a good number of women had experienced or were experiencing some form of violence at home, and even from Filipino men who admitted to having used physical or emotional violence on the women in their lives. The awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns culminated in the passage of the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act, which finally classified domestic violence as a crime, and provided for very strong forms of protection for women and children victims of violence.

* * *

AMONG THE more powerful elements of this new law is the issuance of a "Temporary Protection Order" from either a court or the barangay justice board, which requires, among other things, that the accused leave the conjugal home and not attempt to get near the woman or her children.

The reason for the inclusion of this provision is that all too often, the woman and her children are forced to leave their home simply to escape the violence—and perhaps before her partner finally kills her. Thus, the victim is further victimized, rendered homeless, while the "guilty party" continues to enjoy the comforts of home. The TPO is meant to correct this clear anomaly. I would presume, too, that it would be much easier for a suddenly single man to find temporary abode, rather than it would be for a battered woman fearing for her life and seeking protection for her children.

I just had to laugh at the account by a movie columnist about the "sorry plight" of comedian and TV host Willy Revillame. The "Wowowee" host was supposedly "squatting" in a dressing room of ABS-CBN and sleeping on a narrow couch after he had been "thrown out" of his conjugal home on the basis of a TPO after his wife Liz filed for an annulment.

* * *

IN THE first place, there must have been good reason for the court to grant Liz Revillame's request for the issuance of a TPO. Second, being a well-paid performer, there's no reason Revillame has to "squat" in a small dressing room. He can certainly afford to book himself in a hotel or rent an apartment.

The account is clearly a bid for public sympathy, and a way of skirting the "gag order" imposed by the court hearing the petition for nullity, an order requested by Liz's camp presumably to protect her from the influence her husband and her husband's network wield over the media.

Think about it. What would it profit Liz to seek an end to her high-profile marriage to a high-profile personality so soon after the wedding? Considering that Liz and Willy have a son who is just about to turn a year old, one can't help thinking that there must have been pretty serious and grim reasons for Liz to want out of the marriage.

In fact, one might even say that Liz is "lucky," even if her heartbreak has to be played out in the glare of public attention. She is, after all, an exception to the many other women survivors of violence, who do not have the means or the courage to pursue the path she has taken.

* * *

EDEN Parot, executive director of the Women's Crisis Center, an NGO that was arguably the very first to provide rescue, shelter and counseling services for survivors of violence, says "only about 10 percent" of the women who come to them for counseling eventually decide to file a case in court or pursue an annulment. The vast majority "simply want the violence to stop, and they might seek a TPO just to give their abusive partners a lesson."

"Sad to say," adds Eden, many other women decide to return to their husbands after a few days or weeks, realizing how the odds have been stacked against them. "They have no work, they can't find a place to live, and their children have to go back to school."

This also explains why the WCC staff are finding more and more "returnees," women who had previously been their clients and returned some months after, having been beaten again. "But it is our policy never to turn away a woman seeking help so we take them in still," she adds. Other survivors simply opt "to disappear or go into hiding," although this may mean living a life of constant tension and undeserved punishment.

Why do so many women choose to bypass the legal process? "Because it is tedious and expensive," explains Eden. "If a woman seeks an annulment, she will be spending about P100,000. And if she decides to pursue a criminal case based on the VAWC law, the filing fee alone is P10,000."

What a terrible thing to contemplate: For so many women, going back to a man who they are almost sure will start beating them again is the only alternative to a life free from violence.

Surprises from historical books

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE PAST FEW YEARS, I HAVE BEEN HORRIFIED to know that some of my students are children of friends or acquaintances. But it was not until I found out that two students of my student were children of former classmates that I realized that I was truly getting older and that I must focus and work toward retirement.

They say teaching keeps one young because you are not only exposed to young people, but you see the way they think. In a sense, a teacher has a finger on the pulse of the nation's future. While I'm hopeful that my students will turn out well, it worries me that they are becoming more and more visual and aural, and that they think reading books is an ancient art. From their term papers alone, one can see that research is primarily done on the Internet with Wikipedia as the main source of information. What is disturbing is that books are seen to be Jurassic and that the Internet is seen as a better option when the Internet, just like books, should always be read with a critical eye or at least with some attempt at verification. One is no better than the other.

To force my students to go to the library, I ask them to go over the massive compilation of documents on the Spanish colonial period by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson. This is a 55-volume set in English entitled, "The Philippine Islands 1493-1898: Explorations by Early Navigators, Descriptions of the Islands and their Peoples, their History and Records of the Catholic Missions, as related in contemporaneous books and manuscripts, showing the political, economic, commercial and religious conditions of those Islands from their earliest relations with European nations to the close of the Nineteenth Century." Since the title is so long those who know and use this magnificent set refer to it simply as "Blair and Robertson."

When I was in college, our teacher Helen Tubangui made us plow through these volumes and look for something relevant or even moderately interesting to us for a short research paper. She instructed us to go through the two-volume index and look for topics under the first letter of our surnames. I don't remember now what I did for her class, but I'm sure that it made an impression on me. This simple exercise probably led to my becoming a historian many years later.

Following Miss Tubangui's example, I gave the same assignment this semester—and harvested complaints. Many students, for a variety of reasons, simply did not want to go to the library and read the books. They wanted research that could be carried out online. Others complained that the books were old and dusty, that the volumes made them sneeze. Since I myself am allergic to book dust, I told them that a CD-ROM edition published by the Bank of the Philippine Islands under then president Xavier Loinaz was available. They tried that, too, but complained that it was slow and had no search engine.

I tried to convince them that there was a different feel to actually handling pages on a book or a manuscript. Now, that was being romantic and indeed antiquarian, so I gave up and told them they could at least humor me and do the assignment because there was a wide range of topics to choose from—unless, of course, their surnames began with an X, Y, or Z.

One male student said, "My surname begins with S and I wanted to do a paper on Sex, but I was disappointed that there was no entry under this topic."

I replied, "Why not look under Sodomy?" That made him sit up and declare that he wasn't interested in that kind of sex.

Another said her surname began with R and there was nothing of interest.

To which I replied, "How about Rat, Reptile Rape?" Everyone laughed.

Those who did the assignment found the most obscure topics. If I had followed the example of the eminent anthropologists H. Otley Beyer and E. Arsenio Manuel and filed all my students' research papers, I could write this column every day for a decade and without having to leave my study.

What I wanted my students to realize, without prompting from me, is that here is a mine of information lying unread in a forgotten corner of the university library that is now best used for dozing off or making out. If they saw and appreciated that, then everything was worth all the trouble.

Eating lunch in the school canteen the other day, I saw English professor Danton Remoto, who is preparing to run for a party-list seat to represent the gay, lesbian and transgender sector of Philippine society. I remembered that we had once gone to the Makati Medical Center to visit the writer Bienvenido Santos who was confined in the intensive care unit. We couldn't find the entrance from the back and he pointed to a sign that read "Rear Entry Only." We cracked up laughing. Even the most innocent lines turn lewd when Remoto reads them. I went back to Blair and Robertson and dug up a document from 1605, written by the Dominican archbishop of Manila who was complaining about the corruption of newly converted natives by Chinese and Japanese settlers on matters of sex and the so-called "unnatural manner."

Now, this is worth another column, but if you happen to find yourself in a library with Blair and Robertson, dip into Volumes 54 and 55, run your fingers through the index, and who knows what you will find there.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

No accident

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOME OF MY FRIENDS CRIED AFTER READING THE front-page article in the INQUIRER last Oct. 7 about six Muslim children who were killed in a fire.

Five of the six children were siblings, the parents away at the time of the fire because they had been detained on drug-related charges. The parents could not attend the burial, which by Muslim tradition has to take place on the day of death, because the authorities said there was no court order to allow the parents out.

Normally, you'd hear an outpouring of public concern but this time around, not even politicians came out with condolences or offers of assistance. I have heard nothing more about the incident, the dead children now part of the cold statistics of accidental deaths.

4,000 deaths

After reading about the Taytay accident, I checked statistics from the Department of Health's yearbooks and confirmed my suspicion: after infectious diseases, accidents are the second leading cause of death for children up to the age of 14. Among 15- to 19-year-olds, accidents become the leading cause of death.

The figures vary from year to year, but on average, about 4,000 deaths from accidents are reported annually for Filipino children. Two types of accidents account for about 70 percent of all deaths. Predictably, one group consists of motor vehicle traffic accidents. The other, which actually claims more lives than motor vehicles, are accidents described as those "caused by submersion, suffocation and foreign bodies." I suspect most of these deaths are from drowning; in fact, the 2006 DOH statistics will eventually include three deaths from that Taytay community. Only a week before the fire, three siblings had drowned during typhoon "Milenyo."

I should mention that besides those 4,000 annual deaths, there are another 2,000 young victims of homicides, which can be accidental or intentional.

What's happening then is that we save children from infectious diseases through immunization and treatment of the sick, only to lose so many of them to accidents and to violence. Let's not forget, too, that many of those who do survive accidents may suffer from serious disabilities, sometimes for life.

Dumber?

Every time a kid darts across the street and nearly gets killed, our family driver mutters something about kids being "*mas tanga*" (dumber) these days. There's a paradox here since we marvel constantly at how techie-smart kids can be able to handle cell phones and the Internet and all kinds of electronic gadgets.

So why can't they cross the street properly? Why do candles become so deadly in their hands? And for a country surrounded by the sea, why is it that so many kids can't swim?

Maybe the problem isn't kids being dumber now, but adults being still in denial about the many new needs we have around child safety. Let's try to answer the questions I raised in the previous paragraph, to put those needs in context.

We think traffic accidents are inevitable because there are more vehicles, but really, the heavy traffic may have actually prevented even more deaths, given that cars can't run too fast. But yes, kids still get killed, and the problem is that they have no choice but to be out in the streets. And slow as the cars may be, they can still kill a child especially when you have a driver under the influence of alcohol or shabu. I've actually seen cars accelerating when they see a pedestrian crossing.

The fires? A toppled candle becomes deadly in a shanty, filled with combustible materials. The risks of dying in a fire are amplified because in our urban jungles, parents lock their children in when they go off to work, sometimes without any caregiver, or at best, assigning an older child to care for the younger ones. Fearful of burglars, we've also transformed homes, even the poorest of households, into virtual prisons with locks and grills so that when there's a fire, both adults and children are unable to escape.

The Taytay tragedy reminds us that the problems are compounded with migrant communities. Back in their rural hometowns, migrants can depend on the entire community to help watch the children. In the cities, even as family sizes grow (the five Taytay siblings were aged 2 to 7), the social support system shrinks.

When rural people are transplanted into the urban jungle, life becomes extremely perilous for children. With cramped living space, homes become minefields, with pesticides, kerosene and other poisons stored in soft drink bottles alongside foodstuff. And in a culture that is in love with guns, it's not unusual to have loaded guns lying around in homes. Traditional wisdom falls apart, with parents having little to pass on to their children by way of safety lessons, except to admonish them to behave.

What to do?

Safety awareness needs to be incorporated into school curricula. Even very young children need safety awareness, and can be taught simple but life-saving skills, including something as basic as handling candles. Safety awareness needs to be taught throughout the elementary and high school levels, related to practical life skills.

But beyond the schools, I hope communities will begin to think of what to do about child safety, not by further sequestering children and locking them into homes, but by transforming the environment for both children and adults.

Shortly before the Taytay tragedy, I was already thinking of doing a column about child safety, inspired by an excellent documentary on BBC featuring Unicef-supported programs in Bangladesh. There are teams that go around organizing community assemblies to discuss the most recent fatal accidents and mobilizing the community to take action. Sometimes all it takes is covering a well to prevent children from falling in. In other cases, it may take more effort, like swimming lessons for rural kids. I was amazed at how they'd improvise to turn a river into a teaching pool, with volunteers handling the swimming lessons.

We need to be comprehensive in reviewing the causes of the accidents. I'd point out that sometimes the new risks are inadvertent side effects of some very positive social changes. We complain that today's children are more "*malikot*" (loosely translated, unruly) but some of that might actually be due to improved nutritional status, as well as the independence we encourage in them.

Our safety programs need to anticipate needs. With Christmas approaching, we have to begin warning the public about the market being flooded again with substandard electrical gadgets, and how children are particularly vulnerable to hazards from these gadgets.

All too often, it's no accident that accidents happen. They're almost inevitable, the result of distorted priorities. Something to think about: Every town and city in the country, down to the poorest municipalities, has at least one large cockfighting arena, but many have no safe playgrounds, no daycare centers, no sports centers for our young.

'Retake' will not redeem PRC

RETAKE OR NO RETAKE—THE question lingers.

The controversy has boiled down to two major issues: the ability of the PRC to conduct a credible licensure exam and the capability of the nursing students to pass a nursing licensure exam (not their competence as nursing professionals since it will take many more trainings, other exams and more than a couple of years of actual performance to determine this).

Obviously, a retake will not resolve the issue on the PRC's competence to conduct a credible exam, given the fact that a human factor caused the exam's flaw. The system and conduct of the exam itself were almost perfect. The problem was in having people in the nursing exam board who were either gravely dishonest or grossly negligent. (A retake would probably cost the government another P42 million.)

What then is our guarantee that a retake will not be attended by another leakage? But what will stop dishonest and negligent examiners, who are determined to cheat for whatever reason, from writing down and leaking again test questions to interested parties?

The PRC's credibility has been tainted. Only having honest and responsible people will take that taint away—and "redeem the image of the Filipino nurses here and abroad." Until then, no retake can do that.

—FR. JESUS V. DUMAUL, MSC,
Sacred Heart Parish,
Bantug, Science City of Muñoz

'Underclass' Fil-Ams' condition not dismal

MANY FILIPINOS IN THE PHILIPpines are showing resentment toward fellow Filipinos who have had the choice and luck of going out of the country and living overseas. The "animosity" was further exacerbated when a topnotcher of a medical board exam decided to work as a nurse in the United States; and when the well-known artist-singer Jim Paredes decided to immigrate to Australia.

Michael Tan articulated this resentment in his Sept. 15 column. While the figures he cited were based on an extensive research, Tan's depiction of the situation of Filipinos in America as "dismal and grim" is not reflective of what Filipinos here actually experience—at least based on the economic status of the many Filipino-Americans whom I know well. Not unless owning a beautiful home in upper middle-class communities, or several real estate property, businesses; or sending kids to good schools of their choice, or looking forward to a comfortable life of retirement can be described as "dismal."

Through the United States' orderly electoral process, Filipinos, as Americans here have the power to influence the promulgation of rules and laws on how their tax money may be used, on how the government may be run and who may run it. Many are in the mainstream holding important political positions in the city, county, state and federal governments. Even as private "Americans," they are mostly employed as engineers or technical experts or health care professionals in big multinational corporations; or they run their own businesses.

It is the Filipinos who came here as "illegal undocumented residents" that, sadly, are helpless, abused and exploited, some by fellow Filipinos themselves.

If Tan's column was meant to paint a "grim" picture of the life here to discourage others from coming, then he might have done a good job. But as far as Filipino-Americans are concerned, Tan and the rest of the "first-class Filipino citizens" in the Philippines should work very hard to change the perception that "in America there is a better chance."

I hope Tan will also take time to write about the positive contributions of the Fil-Ams to the Philippines and their commitment to share what they have with fellow Filipinos in the Philippines. We, the "underclass" of America, are here for all the "first-class citizens" of the Philippines. Wish us well and give us the chance to share the good side of our experiences as "underclass" citizens of America. We all have the common yearning that things will get better for the Philippines.

And, by the way, working as a "utilities person" anywhere in the world is a far more decent and dignified job than making a living as a senator or congressman in the Philippines.

—ELIZABETH S. DEL ROSARIO,
San Ramon, California, USA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Religious interference

THIS REFERS TO ASUNCION David Maramba's commentary titled "Will the Church back off?" (PDI, 7/9/06) Referring to the majority of the faithful, she said: "Their views are backed, nay, lived by a huge Catholic population, reared in a religious culture still obsessed with 'saving their souls' and 'going to heaven'—an obsession that is the offspring of the centuries-old dichotomy of body and soul, and the parent of the 'split-level Christian.'"

Maramba's name-calling may not be well-placed. For one thing the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) distinguishes between the "Church" as a whole and the "lay faithful" in particular, and I quote: "When does the Church intervene in social areas? The Church intervenes by making a moral judgment about economic and social matters when the fundamental rights of the person, the common good, or the salvation of souls require it." (Art. 510)

"In what way do Christians participate in political and social life? The lay faithful take part directly in political and social life by animating temporal realities with a Christian spirit and collaborating with all as authentic witnesses of the Gospel and agents of peace and justice." (Art. 519)

The Catholic laity are expected to live by these precepts while the Church makes the moral judgment. Fairness dictates that such acts are best judged by those who live by them, not by those with other agenda.

—IKE ESLAO,
ikeeslao@yahoo.com

Fanciful absurdities should not be passed off as historical facts

THIS REFERS TO NORALYN Mustafa's column "Declaration of severance." (PDI, 8/28/06) It struck me as rather bizarre, to say the least. But I refrained from commenting on it until I could get authoritative confirmation of the baselessness of her claims.

These claims, to take only the more egregious ones, are: Ferdinand Marcos was trustee of more than 480,000 tons of gold nuggets hidden in Spain during World War II. These were lent to the Philippines to fill international gold requirements for setting up a central bank. Later, as Senate president, accompanied by soldiers and in the presence of bank officials, he took out 80,000 tons of gold and shipped them abroad, where they were deposited in foreign banks and invested in corporations.

After checking with the Spanish Embassy and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, I gathered the following information:

1. No Spanish gold was ever sent to the Philippines. During the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) the Republican government sent out gold to Moscow; part of it was returned only many years later. In any case, neither shipments came to the grossly exaggerated claim of Mustafa.

2. RA 265, which set up the Central Bank of the Philippines (CB), contains no provision about an international requirement of gold reserves as a precondition for its establishment. There is no record of a loan of 480,000 tons of gold from Marcos to the CB.

3. The old Central Bank building in Intramuros never had the infrastructure to house 480,000 tons of gold nuggets, which translate to about 38.6 million gold bars. The BSP's present Security Printing complex, which has a vault area 10 times bigger than the old CB building, can only house a maximum of 7,000 gold bars.

4. There is no record of Marcos' CB raid while he was Senate president. Such a raid would have attracted the attention of the CB's staff and other officials.

5. Gold production at its peak in the immediate pre-war years averaged about 30 tons per year. At that rate, it would have taken 16,000 years to accumulate 480,000 metric tons of gold.

6. Mustafa claims there was "a fully governing Islamic kingdom" of Maharlika—comprising the sultanates of Sulu, Maguindanao and Luzon, and the principalities of Rajah Sulaiman, Panay and Sugbu—established in 1304. Muslim and Arabic scholars, like the late Prof. Cesar Adib Majul and Dr. Najeeb Saleeby, place the introduction of Islam in Sulu in 1380. How could there have been an Islamic kingdom before this date? They make no mention at all of this supposed kingdom.

Mustafa can hold and propagate her personal opinions as much as she wants, but she should not pass off fanciful absurdities as historical facts. And the INQUIRER editors should sharpen their perceptions when dealing with submissions that already look highly suspect on first reading. INQUIRER readers have a right to get the truth straight, and the INQUIRER has a duty to give it to them.

—BENITO J. LEGARDA JR.,
Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro Manila

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New roads lined up, to cost ₱32M per km

By Gil Cabacungan

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHways is building 12 major road projects in the super regions over the next three years at an average cost of P32.7 million per kilometer.

In an executive report to Malacañang, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. reported that the DPWH has earmarked P44.7 billion for 12 super region road projects with a total length of 1,369 kilometers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a round table forum, said that the government was doubling its spending for roads and other infrastructure for the next three years to make up for years of declining spending on these projects due to the lack of funds.

The President said she expected these roads to serve as catalysts to improve access to agriculture sources and tourist spots and boost local economies.

Aside from the government funds, these projects would be financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the World Bank and private banks.

Almost half of the budget for the super region roads is earmarked for the 94-kilometer, 8-lane Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project which will cost P20.97 billion, or an average of P223 million per kilometer.

The other road projects are the P6.278 billion Surigao-Davao Coastal road (48 kilometers), P4.29 billion El Nido-Bataraza-Rio Tuba road (339.7 kilometers), P3.5 billion, 22-kilometer C5 Expressway (linking the North and South Luzon Expressways), P2.35 billion Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (11.2 kilometers), P2.065 billion Joe Awang-Upi-Lebak road (88 kilometers), P1.78 billion Halsema Highway (89.5 kilometers), P1.37 billion Bontoc-Tabuk-Tuguegarao road (97.8 kilometers), P1.326 billion Sibuco-Siraway-Baliguian-Gutalac road (117.13 kilometers), P517 million South Luzon toll expressway extension (36.1 kilometers), P210 million Dapitan City Dakak road (10.8 kilometers), and P100 million Dinagat-Loreto road (15 kilometers).

As the DPWH announced these projects, hundreds of families in Southern Luzon remain homeless as a result of Typhoon 'Milenyo.'

At least 400 families are still housed in evacuation centers in different schools in Calamba City, Leonardo Apolencia, officer-in-charge of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Calamba, told the INQUIRER.

He said they had built temporary restrooms for the homeless families and provided relief goods and materials for the temporary sleeping areas of the evacuees.

Apolencia said 128 evacuees would be transferred to a three-hectare resettlement area in Barangay Looc, a place intended for the railroad side residents who will be displaced by the Philippine National Railways rehabilitation project.

The other evacuees will be relocated to a place far from the riverside in Barangay San Cristobal. *With a report from Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

THINGS are looking up, or so says Ms Arroyo's gesture, during a recent visit to an urban poor area near the Malacañang in Manila. LYN RILLON

A POLICEMAN from the City Mobile Group stand outside the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City. Police started stepping up security in crowded places as the city was put on heightened alert against terrorist threats after a series of bombings in some parts of Mindanao.
BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Troops seize 200kg of bomb ingredients

PHILIPPINE SECURITY FORCES SEIZED about 200 kg of a chemical material commonly used in bombs as the police raised their alert level in Metro Manila due to threats of Muslim militant attacks, officials said yesterday.

Col. Antonio Supnet, Army commander in Zamboanga City, said at least eight sacks of ammonium nitrate were found hidden under a shipment of fresh fish aboard a ferry that arrived Monday night from the southwestern island of Jolo.

"We were warned about the dangerous cargo," Supnet said, adding it was the second time a shipment of ammonium nitrate was smuggled into Zamboanga, a business hub in Mindanao, where Muslim rebels are fighting troops of the mainly Catholic country.

Last Sept. 18, about half a ton of ammonium nitrate was seized from a ferry from Jolo, the base of Abu Sayyaf, the country's smallest and most violent Muslim rebel group, which has been hosting militants from Indonesia.

Like the first shipment, the explosive material was similarly hidden under a shipment of fresh fish placed in eight large ice boxes, Supnet added.

Security officials said Muslim militant groups could stage attacks in Manila and elsewhere after last week's bombs in three urban centers in Mindanao killed seven people and wounded 30.

"The terrorists are learning new tricks, new tactics in shipping bomb ingredients," said Supnet.

Supnet said the technique proved to be effective because "our K9 could no longer detect the package especially that it has been stored inside a sealed huge ice case and loaded with ice and water."

"It was a very disturbing discovery," Supnet told the INQUIRER.

Lt. Commander Roy Echeverria, chief of the Philippine Coast Guard here, said the ice chests were consigned to a Maudin Sikandal. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao with Reuters*

S.O.S. SORSOGON
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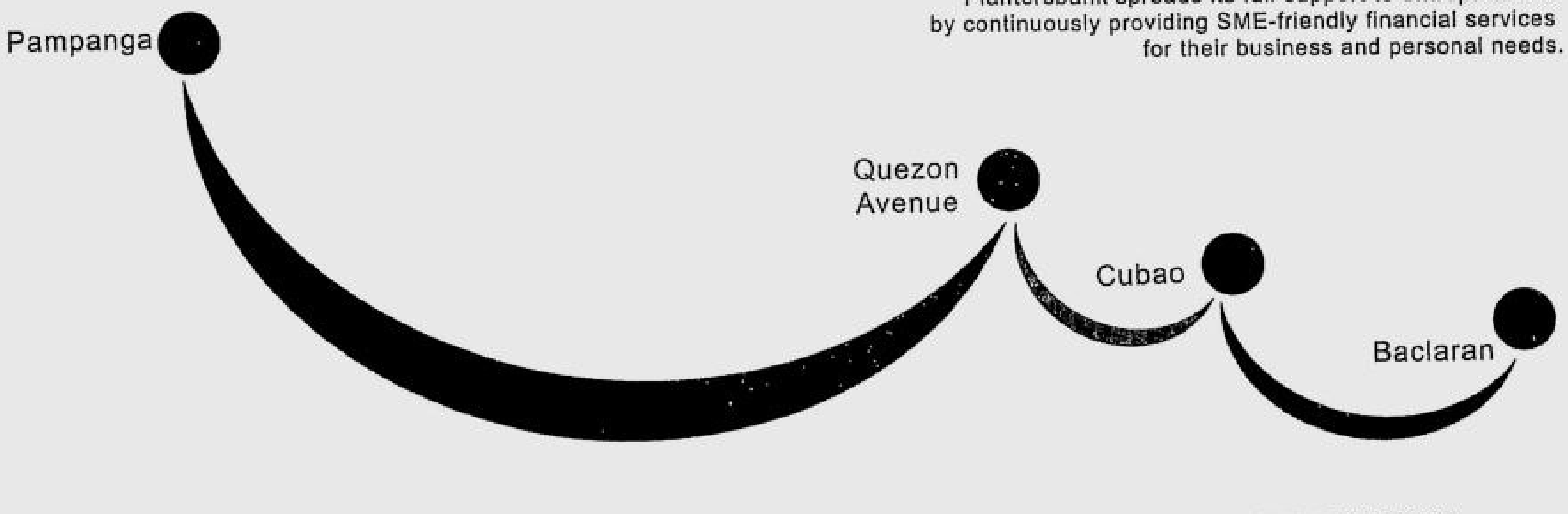

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US soldiers not on call to help wage terror war

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—More than 3,500 American troops on board three war ships arrived at the Subic Bay Freeport on Tuesday, completing the 5,700-member contingent of the United States Marine Corps for a two-week training with Philippine forces until Oct. 31.

Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer, public affairs officer for the Talon Vision and amphibious landing exercises, ruled out their assistance in the government's efforts to stop the recent rash of bomb attacks in Mindanao and to hunt terrorists who reportedly have reached Metro Manila.

"We're here for the exercise only," Parmer said in a phone interview from the Subic Freeport.

"We're not doing anything outside of that," he said, referring to the training that took 10 months of planning.

"Any [changes) must be approved by US and Philippine authorities," he added.

Servicemen from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived at 7 a.m. on board the assault amphibious ship USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Juneau.

Other missions

Aside from war games in Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Zambales and Palawan, these forces will conduct civil-military operations and outreach programs, Parmer said.

In Pampanga, Marines and sailors of the Marine Aircraft Group 36 will donate school supplies and sporting equipment to children in Macapagal, a village of Aetas and lowlanders at the periphery of the Clark Special Economic Zone, a former US military base.

The exercises began on Sunday, starting with a helicopter-borne raid at the Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

BATTLE FOR HEARTS, MINDS

Army answers Left rally with its own

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Village officials and the Philippine Army on Tuesday organized anti-leftist rallies in this Pampanga capital and nearby Mexico town to counter today's Central Luzon-wide caravan by militants calling for an end to political killings in the region.

Lt. Col. Edison Caga, commander of the 69th Infantry Battalion based in Mexico, said the military would not block the routes of protesters from the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luson (AMGL) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) 1st Lt. Reah Marzan, the battalion's civil-military operations head, confirmed the Army's support for the mobilizations by village officials.

But Marzan said some 100 people "blocked the entry points" of the AMGL and Bayan caravan from Barangay Sindalan in San Fernando and Barangay Divisoria in Mexico.

Rally

Residents, she said, massed up at the Divisoria barangay hall for a rally at the town proper by 5 p.m.

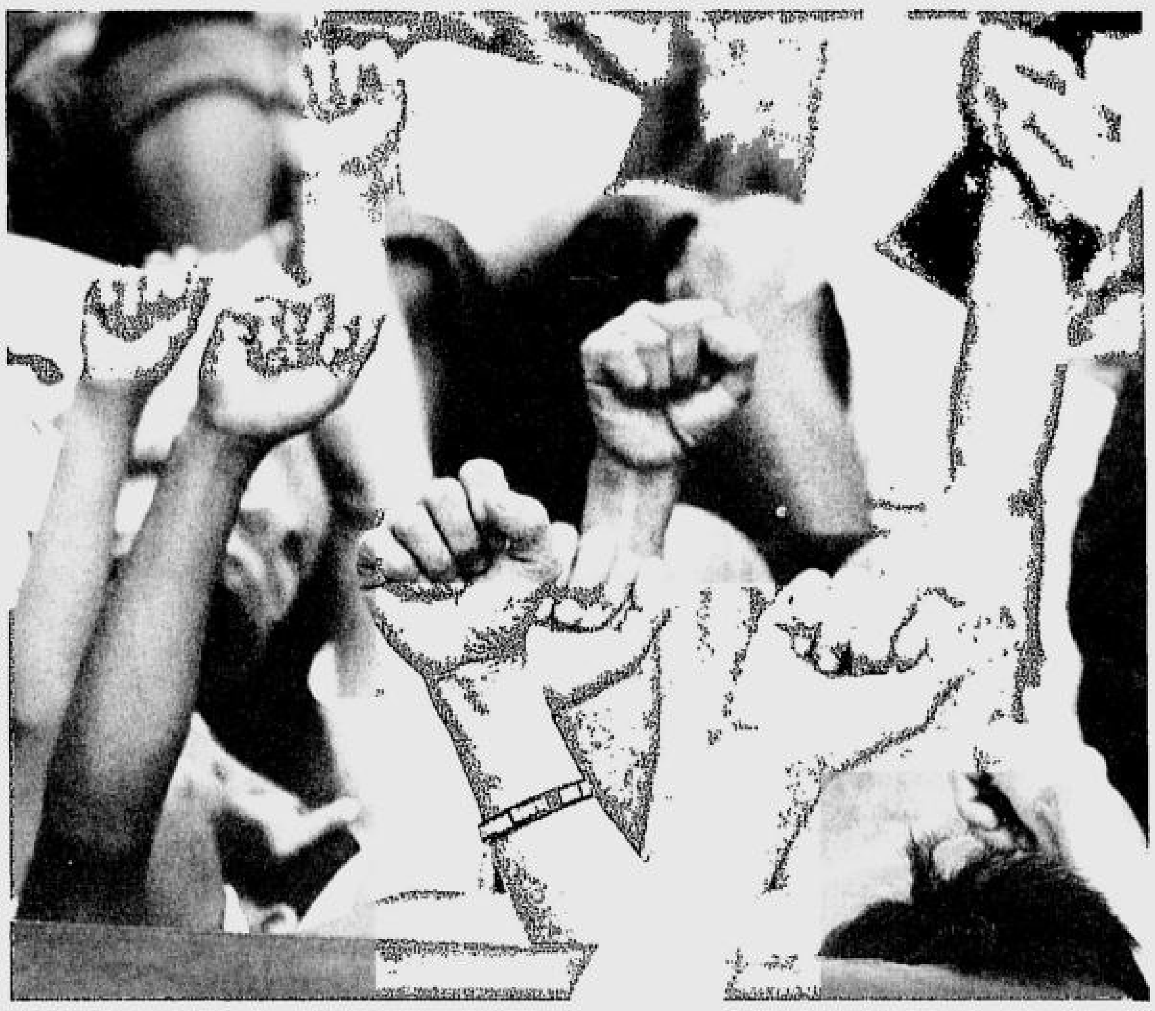
"They're condemning the rally orchestrated by Bayan and AMGL. This is proof that the people have rejected their deception," Marzan said in a text message.

Several village officials confirmed organizing the rally at the prompting of soldiers.

Mexico Mayor Teddy Tumang confirmed Marzan's reports, and said he hoped there would be no violent confrontation between AMGL members and anti-leftist groups in the town.

Policemen were fielded to prevent a clash.

San Fernando residents gathered at the provincial capitol here for a peace rally denouncing the presence of leftists in the city, Marzan said.



CLENCHED fists fill the air at a rally recently against the killings of leftists. The military organized their own rally to denounce leftist operations in the provinces that they blame for illegal taxation and killings of civilians.

JOAN BONDOC

The Army declared Mexico freed from the control of the communist rebels in April this year. In August, it declared this city free from the influence of the rebels and their front organizations.

Joseph Canlas, AMGL chair, said they believed the Army was mainly behind Tuesday's rallies.

"This is clear evidence that the military has not only been behind the killings and abductions of activists and plain civilians but has also been coercing the people to join anti-communist and anti-leftist rallies," Canlas told the INQUIRER.

At least 110 activists, including Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento, had been killed in Central Luzon since February 2001, according to the human rights group Karapatan. At least 25 of them were from Bulacan.

The police, however, said Ramento was a victim of robbers and not of assassins.

On Tuesday, 50 activists and human rights workers from various groups in Bulacan began the peace caravan in the province.

Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) information officer, said Obando Mayor Zoilito Santiago did not promise to support the groups' demand for the pull-out of Army soldiers because the revived counterinsurgency campaign was part of government policy.

This could not be immediately confirmed with the mayor.

Citing information from officials, the caravan listed Obando's Barangays Tawiran, Palicao, Salambao, Binuangan and Paco as "militarized," meaning troops had been deployed there.

The Army said the rebels continue to suffer from setbacks as three guerrillas tired of life in the jungles surrendered and were presented on Monday.

The three former members of the communist underground movement operating in the rural areas of Camarines Sur separately surrendered to the Army after sneaking out of the different units of the New People's Army where they were once assigned.

The three said they longed to be with their family and decided to escape their guerrilla units to fulfill this longing.

Literacy education

One of the guerrillas said he taught literacy education to NPA members but always thought of his wife and seven children in Buhi, Camarines Sur.

One, a former pastor of the United Methodist Church in Buhi, Camarines Sur, said he joined the NPA after learning that his 15-year-old son was being recruited.

The three are members of the NPA's propaganda unit.

One said he was a farmer who finished Grade 2 and joined the NPA in 2002. He decided to escape, walked 5 km and took a ride from Nabua to Lagonoy town where he surrendered to the 42nd Infantry Battalion. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon with a report from Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Why not the world?
- Lea Salonga
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Punishing the exploiters, not the exploited

By Tonette Orejas
Olongapo City

ALMA BULAWAN IS 45. MYLENE Aniola is 27. Although they have 18 years between them, the two women have fought the same battles.

Since stopping selling sexual services, both have started their own groups that help those still trapped in the prostitution industry.

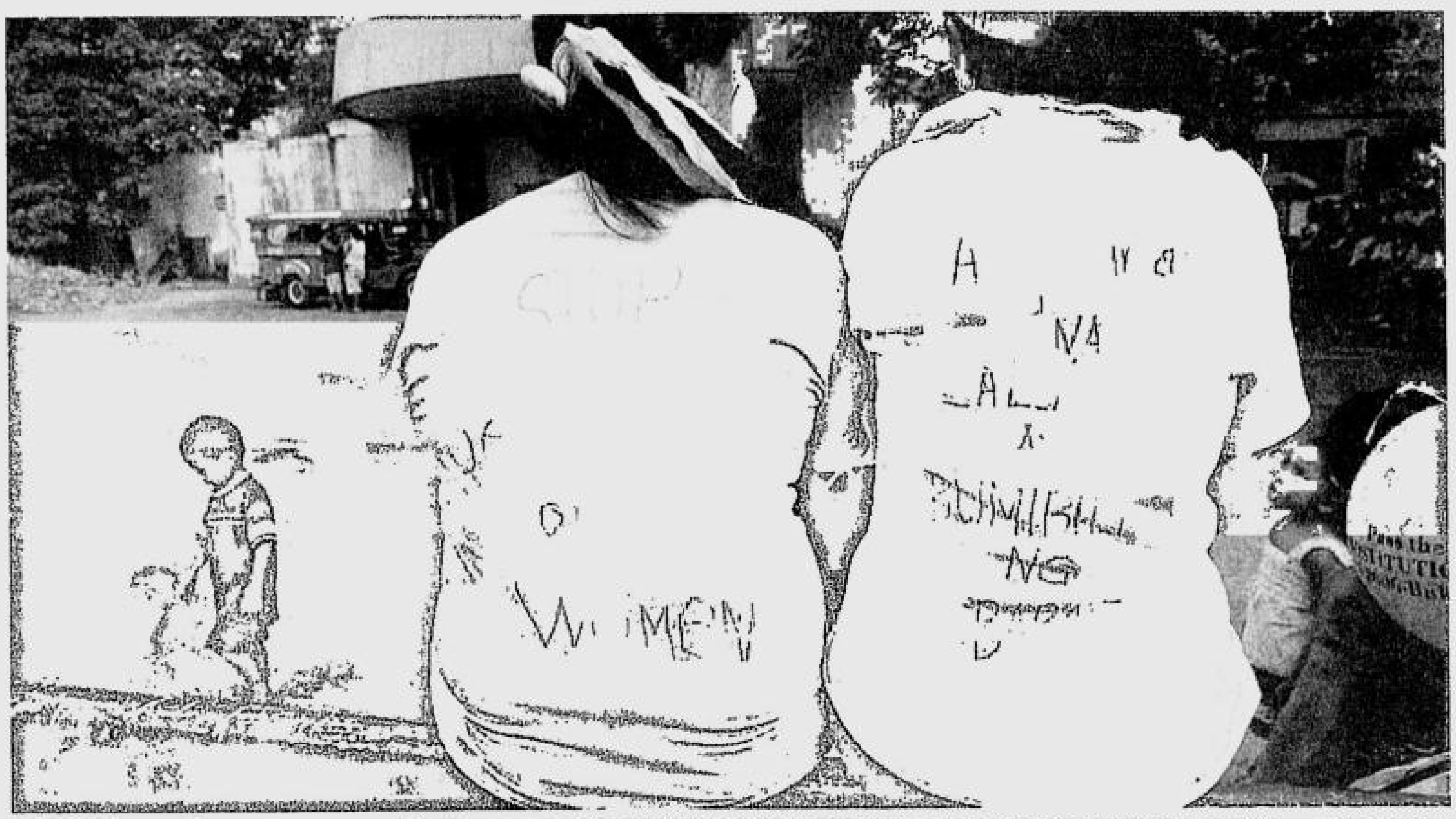
Bulawan's group, the Buklod ng Kababaihan (Unity of Women), formed in 1987, gives literacy classes, facilitates educational scholarship and livelihood projects, conducts rights and health seminars, carries out research and campaign, provides counseling, and taps legal services for abused prostituted women and children in Olongapo City and Subic, Zambales.

The group's 10 staff members are survivors of the flesh trade. They went on, unscathed by the defeat of the first ever legal suit seeking recognition and support for Amerasians, children sired by servicemen with Filipino partners.

Aniola's group, the Bagong Kamalayan (New Consciousness) Collective Inc., provides the same services on a smaller scale since she and six other former street hookers founded the group in 2004. Its work is focused in Quezon City and Manila.

Buklod taps social institutions and churches for funds, and raises money by doing laundry, selling school supplies and recycling bags from tetra packs.

Bagong Kamalayan raises money for the allowance of volunteers through food catering and soap-making.



FORMER bar workers express support for the passage of the Anti-Prostitution Bill during a recent rally held in Olongapo City. TONETTE T. OREJAS

"We assist women, girls, gays and men who want to be out or still haven't gotten out for lack of courage or options," said Bulawan.

"I believe we're in the best position to help because we used to be part of the industry and we understand what it is like to be in that world," added Aniola.

Equal protection

Their third crusade is a shared advocacy for the passage of House Bill 2419 or the antiprostitution bill. The House committee on revision of laws sent the draft to the technical working group in June, according to an update by Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, one of the 13 authors.

On Oct. 5, Buklod, Bagong Kamalayan, Preda and the Olongapo-Zambales Civil Society Network led a motorcade and rally to gather local support for the bill.

Held in time for the "International Day of No Prostitution," these were the first activities done in Olongapo City and Subic town, where prostitution thrived during the presence of the United States military.

"Why is it that those who are exploited are the ones being punished? Why not punish the buyers of sex, the pimps and bar owners who make money out of the bodies of women, children and men, or the cops who rape women when they're arrested for vagrancy?" asked Aniola.

There are still reasons to call for a stop to prostitution in the two areas, Bulawan said, noting it exists under not-so different conditions.

Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr. disagreed. "There is no prostitution in the city. We've been on the watch for it because it is unlawful," he said.

But 14 years after the US closed down its base and pulled out its sailors with the Seventh Fleet, at least 94 bars do business on Olongapo's Magsaysay Avenue and in Barangay Barreto and 37 in Subic town's Barangays Calapandayan and Philseco, according to a Buklod study in 2004.

The registered women bar workers reached 4,758 in Olongapo and 238 in Subic town.

In both areas, though, the unregistered workers—mostly young women selling their bodies on the streets—had counted at least 1,500, the study said.

These numbers, according to Bulawan, are more than a fourth of the 16,000 women drawn and degraded into prostitution in the 1980s.

While the trade rose and fell with the coming and going of United States soldiers, it now caters to American soldiers coming for military exercises held under the Visiting Forces Agreement and to foreigners, expatriates and locals, Bulawan said.

The number of women rises every time large-scale training is held, taking in tow between 3,000 and 5,000 troops.

Bar owners and pimps serve these troops by bringing the women inside the Subic Bay Freeport, all fetched and taken out in vans—a scheme that Gordon said he was unaware of.

Having come from the trade herself, Bulawan said it is sexual pleasure, not music, drinks, food or dances that the men mainly come for.

Exploitative

Work conditions have remained exploitative.

Waitresses get between P50 and P70 a night. A few bars pay P200 a night for such kind of work.

Nude dancers get P600 while those who perform with their private parts covered are paid P150.

Bar fine (fee for taking a woman from a bar for a night of sex) costs P3,000, which is divided between the bar owner and the woman.

The women pay for the cost of getting a pap smear test, which should be twice a month to be able to get a health card certifying she was clean.

Aniola, pushed to the trade when she was 14, said it was not enough that there was a new law. "Poverty must be stopped. Those who go hungry and without any means to live sell their body to be able to survive," she said.

"Very few prostituted women would say they willingly entered the trade. Most of us did not want to be in this kind of life. The government should understand it that way, and from there start putting the safeguards by providing jobs and opportunities to poor families," she added.

IN THE KNOW

The antiprostitution bill seeks to:

- DECRIMINALIZE prostituted persons by repealing anti-vagrancy and white slavery provisions of the Revised Penal Code. This shifts culpability from the victims of prostitution to the buyers and perpetrators (pimps, organizers, etc.) of prostitution.
- Affirm the principle of equal protection by protecting anyone, regardless of sex, gender and sexual orientation, from prostitution.
- Impose harsh penalties on the perpetrators and patrons of prostitution. The penalty for all acts of prostitution is 20 years imprisonment, P1 million to P2 million fine, and mandatory human rights education. If the perpetrator or patron is also a victim of prostitution, the years of imprisonment are reduced to 15 years and the fine is lowered to P500,000 to P1 million. Mandatory human rights education is also imposed on all perpetrators and buyers of prostitution.
- Give mandate to the national government to develop "healing programs" for victims of prostitution. It creates the National Anti-Prostitution Council to enforce the law, with DTI, Neda and DOLE as members to address access to opportunities for prostituted persons.
- Establish a trust fund from confiscated properties of sellers for the state's antiprostitution education and livelihood programs.

The long and short of cold chain

By Delmar Cariño
La Trinidad, Benguet

THE COLD STORAGE FACILITY in La Trinidad, Benguet, was intended to revolutionize the province's vegetable industry by providing the competitive edge of being able to cater to the growing demand for fresh vegetables.

> The cold chain is an unbroken storage system of refrigerated vegetables from the farm to the consumers' tables

Unfortunately, farmers have yet to smile on their way to the bank.

The facility, built at a cost of P22 million in 2004, has failed to make its mark both as an economic enterprise and as a technology designed to improve farmers' practices on crop programming.

Local vegetable industry leaders agreed that the cold storage has not reaped reasonable returns because, until now, it has yet to be fully utilized by all stakeholders of the industry.

Agriculture analysts cited a more disturbing culprit: Farmers have fallen short of getting into the culture of the cold storage and its role in the "cold chain" business for vegetables.

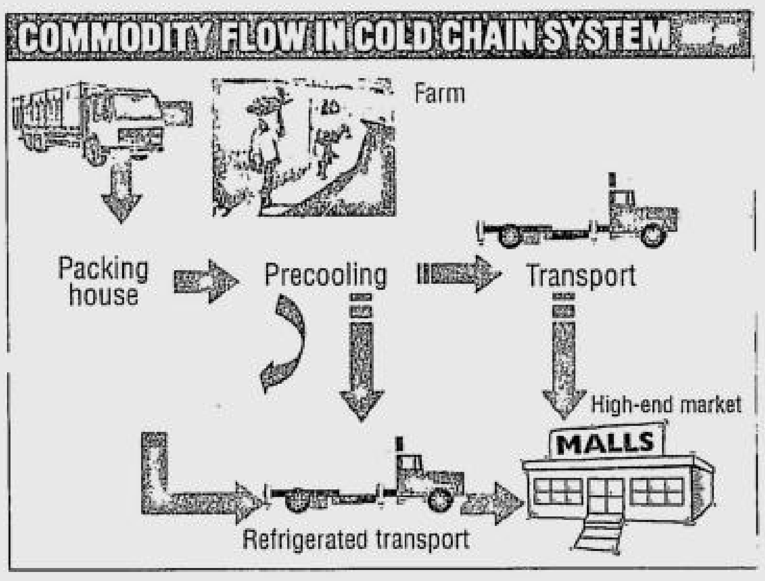
Shellanie Molitas, the cold storage project manager, gave statistics that indicated the lukewarm reception to the cold storage among farmers—reefer (refrigerated) trucks, 37.5 percent utilization rate; cold storage, 75 percent; and crates, 70 percent.

The storage and the four reefer trucks can hold close to 15,000 kilograms of leafy vegetables when fully used.

But right now, the provincial government has found its P2 million annual subsidy a heavy loss to its coffers while farmers are fidgeting that they are being excluded from the facility's operation.

Super region component

Under a memorandum of agreement in 2004, the facility, which was cited by President Macapagal-Arroyo as a vital component of the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle super region, was supposed to be turned over to the Benguet Farmers Federation once the farmers are ready.



A ROUGH diagram of the cold chain process. The end link is supposed to be the high end market.

Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist, said it is the lack of an established network of high end or institutional markets for farmers that stymied the facility's full potential.

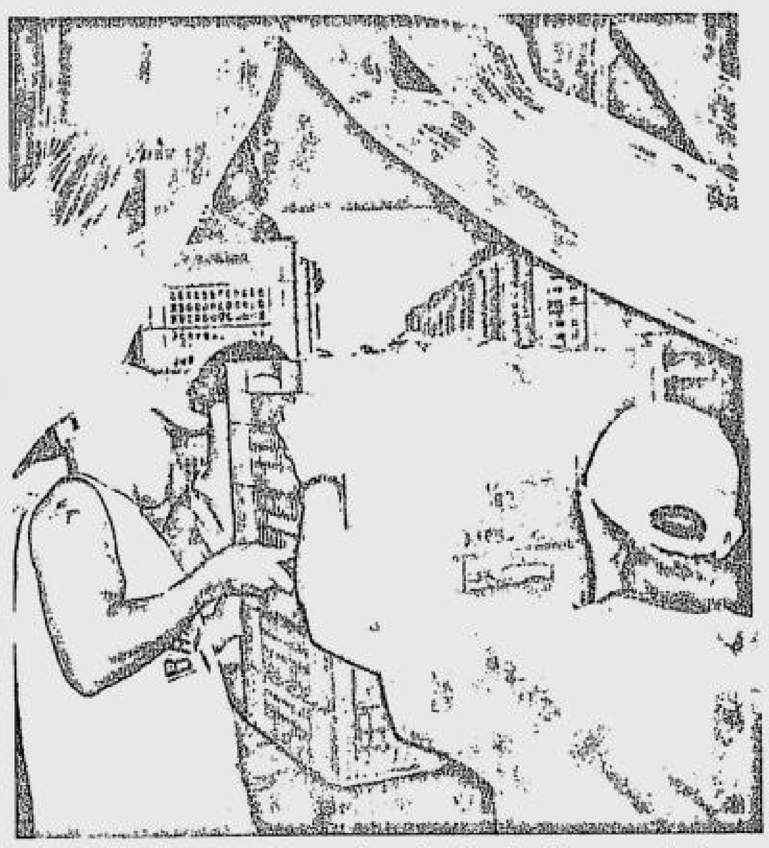
High end buyers refer to hotels and restaurants, airline caterers, fast food chains, supermarkets and food processors.

Right now, only eight vegetable dealers have availed of the facility's services—John Kenny, Liana's, ME Vegetable Supply, ABC Farms, Baguio Growers, Gardenline, FAMB Gubay and Tercero's Veggies.

Bentres said farmers must be serious in raising quality lettuce, celery, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage, the vegetables that have similar temperature and relative humidity requirements for storage.

Dr. Ricardo Cachuela, executive director of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Post-Harvest Research and Extension, said all stakeholders in the production side of the industry must understand that the cold storage is just a part of the entire cold chain system.

"It is not the storage but it is actually the cold chain," he said. "The cold chain is an unbroken storage system of refrigerated vegetables right from the farm to the consumers' tables."



HELPERS load crates of lettuce into the chamber for storage before these are transported to Metro Manila to be kept anew in another cold storage. DELMAR CARIÑO

The chain includes packing houses in the farm, pre-coolers (preliminary cooling facilities), refrigerated trucks, cold storage facility, reefer vans and refrigerated display shelves at the supermarkets to preserve quality and freshness, he said.

But the province still lacked pre-coolers and refrigerated trucks near major vegetable-producing areas.

Storage provider

This problem, according to Molitas and agriculturist Delinea Juan, has made the province's cold storage more as a "storage provider" than as part of a cold chain.

"Ten to 15 percent of the province's total vegetable production can be absorbed by high end buyers but their program of purchase can't be matched by farmers," Molitas said.

Juan said there are still farmers who cannot distinguish the "wet" from the "institutional" market. "It is the latter that demands the cold chain. Vegetables sold from the cold storage cannot be sold directly to the wet market because their shelf lives will be short," she said.

Farmers cannot also complain of the storage's perceived high cost because the system's power and fuel needs are also high, Molitas said.

Jose Andiso Sr., president of the Benguet Farmers Federation, said the farmers understood the cold chain.

"But pre-coolers and reefer trucks must be provided to the farmers in every town, including the establishment of greenhouses, to encourage the farmers to support the cold chain," he said.

Cachuela said the province's cold storage is not actually underutilized.

In fact, he said, the use had improved since 2005 when the utilization rate was only 21.53 percent for the trucks and 31 percent for the storage.

Acting mayor's blood pressure shoots up

From page A1

executive when a medical team was called.

His blood pressure had shot up due to lack of sleep and stress, the 63-year-old Feraren said minutes after a doctor saw him on the second floor of the old Makati City Hall where he held temporary office.

"I am in good condition. I just need to rest," he told a press conference.

"Don't believe that there are two mayors in Makati. I am just the caretaker," Feraren said, noting that his designation was to ensure that City Hall operations continued in spite of Mayor Jejomar Binay's 60-day suspension.

But even before office hours began yesterday, the City Hall's entrances were tightly shut. Only the old building remained open for Feraren and at least 100 policemen who were tasked with looking after him and ensuring that the growing crowd outside stayed calm and organized.

But later in the afternoon, the policemen dozed off on their shields.

Courts, classes shut down

Court hearings in the nearby Hall of Justice were postponed, while classes at the Pio del Pilar High School were also canceled for the day.

Supt. Jaime Juadines, chief of the Southern Police District Mobile Patrol Unit, was designated as Feraren's chief of staff.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Juadines said at least 30 policemen were keeping watch over Feraren. "There are 130 of them but right now they are scattered outside to make sure that peace and order is maintained in the vicinity," he said.

Juadines witnessed the serving of the suspension order in September against Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto and 10 councilors.

He said that more policemen were mobilized for the Makati operation yesterday, but they did not have to exert too much effort. As the day wore on, there was little sign of the force armed with truncheons and some with M-16 rifles.

"It looks like Mayor Binay's supporters know how to abide by the rules," he said, recalling the standoff at the Pasay City Hall last month that resulted in injuries to a woman and some property destroyed.

3-4 days to leave

Feraren said Binay had at least three to four days to leave his office.

"I know he is a good man," Feraren said. But if a temporary restraining order were handed down to stop the implementation of Binay's suspension before the deadline, Feraren said he would relinquish his post immediately.

Vendors took advantage of the roughly 1,500 crowd that trooped to City Hall in support of Binay, selling colorful hats and fans, cold drinks, fruits and fish balls.

Florida, 21, was not only there to cheer Binay on, but to earn thrice her usual daily income from the hamburgers, candies and cigarettes that she usually peddles along Zapote Road.

"My other relatives are also here to sell and earn more. But we are also here to show support to our mayor who has done good things for us," she told the INQUIRER.

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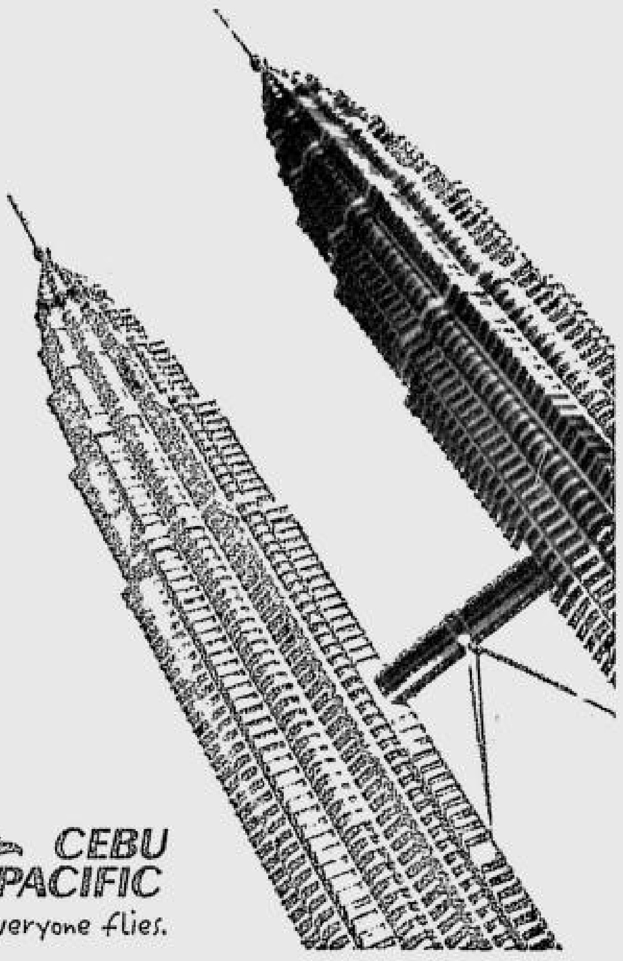

Why can't I come home?

– Ninoy Aquino

Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER

CA rules criminal . . .

From page A1

day, the Court of Appeals rejected the motion for reconsideration filed by ABS-CBN executives led by vice president Ma. Rosario "Charo" Santos-Cancio.

The motion had sought a reversal of the court's May 24 decision upholding the right of the DOJ to conduct a preliminary investigation into the criminal liability of the network officials.

But in a resolution written by Associate Justice Arturo Tayag, the appellate court's Special 13th Division said that "after carefully considering the grounds or arguments stated" in the motion, it had found no reason to do so."

"This court finds that the grounds and reasons [stated] have been already considered, discussed and passed upon in the questioned decision. Hence, there appear no valid or cogent reason to disturb, reverse or modify [it]," the court said.

The stampede occurred as people who had camped for days outside the PhilSports (formerly Ultra) Arena to attend the first anniversary of the popular noontime show "Wowowee" jostled to get in.

The DOJ's five-member investigation panel headed by Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III has yet to issue a resolution on the charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries filed by the National Bureau of Investigation.

The accused

According to the appellate court, the conduct of a preliminary investigation was a function of the executive branch, and the findings of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez were "not subject to a review of the court unless these have been issued with grave abuse."

It emphasized that Gonzalez had "not even made yet any finding to speak of in the instant case, much less [something] subject to review."

The others facing charges are Willie Revillame, "Wowowee" host; Maria Socorro Vidanes, senior vice president for television production; Marilou Almaden, executive producer, and Cipriano Luspo, assistant vice president and head of ABS-CBN security.

Also on the charge sheet are Moly Stewart, Norberto Vidanes, Mel Feliciano and Jean Owen Garcia, "Wowowee" executive producer and manager, director, assistant director, and floor director, respectively; Harold James Nueva, associate producer for sets; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager and security coordinator, and Francisco Rivera, ABS-CBN location manager.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring had also recommended the filing of administrative sanctions against Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio before the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

It was Eusebio who granted ABS-CBN the permit to hold the event at the PhilSports Arena despite its limited capacity.

DOJ 'bias'

Through their lawyers, ABS-CBN executives had assailed the DOJ for its purported "institutional bias."

They had cited the statements of Justice Secretary Gonzalez pointing to the alleged civil liability of the network's chief executive officer, Gabby Lopez III, in the stampede.

"I'll bet everything I have that they are responsible, at least on the civil aspect," Gonzalez said of the Lopezes at the time.

He also cited Lopez's public declaration taking full responsibility for the tragedy.

4 top nursing schools defend filing of motion

From page A1

Manila and Baguio and those who had registered for but did not attend the "final coaching" sessions at three review centers found to have leaked test questions could take their oath as nurses.

On Monday, however, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion directed the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to desist from administering the oath and from issuing licenses to board passers cleared by the Court of Appeals.

Brion said he stopped the PRC from administering the oath because the court's ruling could still be reversed.

He said the petitioners were still entitled to file a motion for reconsideration, which UST and the others did the other day.

Clarification

Famorca said the petitioners did not even ask for a temporary restraining order. Instead, UST and the other groups merely sought a clarification of the court ruling, including the one covering those who would have to retake Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing).

She said the UST College of Nursing was concerned about how the 1,687 examinees ordered to take the tests again were identified. The PRC added the names of these examinees to the list of board passers following a recomputation of test scores.

"We want clarification because we don't even know how the PRC came up with these names," the UST professor said.

Asked about the possibility of the UST group bringing the case all the way to the Supreme Court, she said: "It depends on what the court would say about the petition."

Even if the motion was not filed, Famorca said the court ruling was not yet final and executory. "The parties would still have to wait for at least 15 days even if we didn't file the motion for reconsideration," she said.

Heart of problem

In a joint statement yesterday, nurses from UST, UP, UE and FEU said the PRC officials should be "prudent enough to respect our right to file a motion for reconsideration."

The group said the appellate court's ruling failed to address the heart of the problem, which was "the fact that [the] leakage occurred."

"This fact was not disputed by the court, yet this was not addressed," it said.

"By simply nullifying Resolution No. 31 and not causing a retake by all of Tests III and V, the leaked questions were in essence declared valid and those who passed yet cheated were treated similarly as those who passed yet did not cheat."

Resolution No. 31 invalidated 20 of the 100 questions in Test III while ordering a recomputation of Test V.

"If the effect of the leakage remained in the (nursing licensure exam), the integrity and credibility of the examination remains in question," it said.

Testimony, core issues

UST and the other nursing schools maintained that the cheating was not limited to Manila and Baguio.

"Vital testimony of examinee Dennis Bautista attesting to a satellite feed from Manila to Cebu and Davao was ignored by the NBI and, therefore, was not considered by the Court of Appeals in deciding this case," the petitioners argued.

"We all want to bring the leakage issue to closure, and we were hoping that the CA decision will do this. It appears that, rather than resolving the issue, the CA decision raised questions that need reconsideration and clarification."

The Court of Appeals decision on the selective retake of the nursing board exam would not provide closure to the controversy, a militant group of health workers said.

"Core issues, such as the integrity and competence of our nurses, as well as the commercialism and profiteering that have characterized nursing education, remain loose ends that will continue to be contentious," the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) said in a statement.

Abolish board

To help restore the nursing profession's credibility, Pasig City Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski urged Malacañang to certify as urgent a bill calling for the abolition of the Board of Nursing, which has been blamed for the exam leakage.

Acting PRC Director for Central Visayas Dan Malaya said some 100 Cebuano board passers could be among the 1,687 who were ordered to retake the tests in December. More than 1,500 of the 1,723 passers from Cebu had taken their oaths, according to Malaya.

In Tacloban City, PRC Regional Director German Palabyab said his office could not schedule an oath-taking for the 143 nursing graduates in Eastern Visayas who passed the board exam because of the Malacañang decision. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila; and Jhunnex Napallacan, Jolene R. Bulambot and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

SC to PCGG: Face Senate investigation

From page A1

in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their cronies, had been "repealed by the 1987 Constitution."

Being "in the nature of immunity," the section "is inconsistent with the principle of public accountability" because it places PCGG officials "beyond the reach of courts, Congress and other administrative bodies," the court said.

"Instead of encouraging public accountability, the same provision only institutionalizes irresponsibility and accountability."

The tribunal said the provision ran counter to the constitutional provision that "public office is a public trust" and that officials "must at all times be accountable to the people."

Anomalous losses

The Senate resolution calls for an inquiry into the "anomalous losses incurred" by Philippine Overseas Telecommunication Corp. (POTC), Philcomsat and PHC due to the alleged improprieties in their operation by their respective board of directors. POTC is the mother company of PHC and Philcomsat.

But PCGG and Philcomsat officials refused to attend the Senate hearings, claiming that Section 4(b) of EO No. 1 had not been repealed by Section 3, Article XVIII of the transitory provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

The constitutional provision states that "all laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations ... not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked."

Last month, the Senate issued warrants of arrests against Sabio and the four PCGG commissioners for defying its summons. Sabio was arrested in his office by a Senate security team. The others went into hiding.

Following the arrest of Sabio, the PCGG filed a petition for certiorari and prohibition against the Senate, prompting the Supreme Court to suspend the arrest warrants and to order a halt to the Philcomsat hearings in the Senate. That was until the court issued its decision yesterday.

Show up or be arrested

Sabio and the PCGG commissioners should voluntarily show up or be arrested, said Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations looking into the assets of Philcomsat and the PCGG's handling of other sequestered corporations.

"We would have to call a hearing on Friday so we could actually bring them to the Senate," Gordon said.

Senate President Manuel Villar said Sabio and company had no choice but to appear and answer questions in the Senate.

"They have no more reason not to attend the hearing because if they do not show up, we will again cite them in contempt and order their arrest," Villar said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who argued the Senate's position in the Supreme Court, said the tribunal's decision left no room for Sabio and the others to snub the Senate hearings or refuse to answer questions.

"In other words, Chair Sabio will be compelled to reveal information (about the sequestered assets) and answer questions of the senators," Arroyo said.

He said that while the warrant issued by the Senate for the arrest of Sabio and others remained in effect, the Senate could just invite them back.

"The Gordon committee can invite or summon the PCGG officials and by the decision of the Supreme Court, they must obey, testify and answer the questions," Arroyo said.

The Senate sergeant at arms, retired Gen. Jose Balajadia, said his men were ready to serve the warrants if the Senate ordered him to do so.

Power of inquiry

The Supreme Court said the investigative powers of Congress and "any of its committees" were "broad enough to cover officials of the executive branch."

It cited a former high court ruling stating that "the power of inquiry is co-extensive with the power to legislate."

The Supreme Court said this power was "not only intended to benefit Congress but also the citizenry" who are "equally concerned with this proceedings and have the right to participate therein."

As to the privacy defense put up by the petitioners, the court said "the right to privacy is not absolute where there is an overriding compelling state interest."

The tribunal also dismissed the argument of PCGG officials that the Senate was barred from inquiring into the same issues being litigated before the Court of Appeals and the Sandiganbayan.

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Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council announces the opening of the position of **CHIEF JUSTICE of the SUPREME COURT** which will be vacated by **HON. ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN** upon his retirement on 07 December 2006.

Pursuant to the policy and practice of the JBC, the following first five senior incumbent Justices of the Supreme Court shall automatically be considered for nomination:

HON. REYNATO S. PUNO
HON. LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
HON. CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
HON. ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
HON. ANTONIO T. CARPIO

Applications/recommendations should be filed with the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila (Tel. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598) on or before **Monday, 30 October 2006**. In case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee.

09 October 2006.

(Sgd.) **MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA**
Clerk of Court &
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI-Oct. 18, 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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is pleased to announce the appointment of

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as its Exclusive Marketing Distributor for Philippines effective **1st Sep 2006.** Together, we look forward to your continuing support and patronage.

Meanwhile, the Company would like to express its greatest gratitude to Messrs. Shemberg Marketing Corporation for services rendered in marketing and distribution of **WD-40** during its tenure as **WD-40** marketing distributor. We are confident that Shemberg Marketing Corporation and its associated company, US Chemicals Products Inc. will enjoy continued success in its other business endeavors.

Separately, the Company also would like to inform that effective Sep 2006, **WD-40** marketing and distribution in Philippines will be handled by **Herco Trading Incorporated** and its associated company, **Federal Chemicals Incorporated**.

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KWENTONG OFW NI ROD & LOVELYN

"Kahit malayo si Rod, damang-dama namin ang pagiging padre de pamilya niya."

Ten years nang kasal si Lovelyn at si Roderick Salariosa, pero sa loob ng 10 years na yon, 8 years na silang hiwalay dahil kinailangang magtrabaho ni Rod sa Middle East bilang AutoCAD operator. Six years siya sa Riyadh at ngayon halos 2 years na sa Dubai. Nung first time na umalis ni Rod, buntis si Lovelyn sa panganay nilang anak.

"Mahirap na masarap maging OFW family! Minsan malungkot ka kasi siyempre mamimiss mo siya pero pag nakikita ko naman na maayos naming napapalaki ang mga bata at nakakapag-aral sila sa magandang school, sulit na rin!" Mula sa kita ng kanyang asawa, nagtayo siya ng beauty parlor and SmartLoad business. Both businesses are doing well. "Buti na nga lang at may SMART. Nababawasan ang kaba at lungkot ko 'pag naririnig ko boses niya! Minsan nga 4 beses pa kami magtawagan sa loob ng 1 linggo! Di naman nauubusan ng pagkukwentuhan eh."

Lovelyn and the kids, John Erick (9 years old) and James Erickson (5 years old), are also heavy users of SMART International Text. "Yung mga bata hinahayaan kong mag-text nang madalas sa Daddy nila para naman di nila maramdaman na malayo si Rod." The kids keep their father updated on schoolwork, minsan pa nga humihingi sila ng tulong sa assignments kay Daddy kung nasa parlor pa si Mommy.

"Kahit malayo si Rod, damang-dama namin ang pagiging padre de pamilya niya." She recalls the time when the boys got sick and had to be hospitalized. Rod virtually stayed with her through the ordeal. "Feeling ko no'n magkasama kaming nagbabantay, magdamag siyang text nang text. Pinalakas niya loob ko." The caring and nurturing go both ways. Nung si Rod naman ang nagkasakit, Lovelyn constantly called to remind him to take his temperature and medicines. Talaga namang the Salariosas are well-bonded. "Simple lang naman ang pangarap namin—ang makapagtapos ang mga bata at magkaroon ng sariling bahay! Pag stable na ang mga negosyo namin, pwede nang umuwi si Rod ko. Pero for now, kailangan naming magsipag at magtiis pa nang konti."

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After Binay, JV fears he's next

San Juan mayor claims audit team checking on him

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAYING THE SUSPENSION OF Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay proved that there was an ongoing administration crackdown on opposition leaders, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito yesterday said he could be next in line.

"There was an auditing team which had been asking the municipal hall for copies of all contracts I had signed," Ejercito told the INQUIRER.

But he stressed that he was confident the administration would fail to find anything to pin on him. At the same time, however, he added that he would not be surprised should charges be fabricated against him.

"This administration is very capable of fabricating. I will not be surprised. But that would be a blatant disregard of the rule of law (if they suspend me)," Ejercito, a son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, also said.

The Department of Interior and Local Government yesterday served a 60-day preventive suspension order on Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and Makati's 16 councilors, including Binay's son, Jejomar Erwin.

EJERCITO RUDY ESPERAS

DPWH: Bear with traffic jams a little bit longer

By Leila B. Salaverria

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY HERMOGENES Ebdane Jr. yesterday asked motorists to put up a little bit longer with the traffic jams resulting from the dismantling of billboards in Metro Manila and other areas.

According to the official, his men were trying to get the job done before the start of the holidays when vehicular flow is expected to become heavier.

Ebdane said he could not delay the removal of billboards any longer because of the chance that they could cause harm to people and property.

"This is an activity that we cannot postpone. We have already taken safety precautions such as the installation of additional warning devices and plywood catch basin to prevent the residue of acetylene (torch) from falling directly on passing vehicles," he said in a statement.

At the same time, Ebdane ordered building officials nationwide to ensure that the removal of illegal billboards and structures encroaching on the road right-of-way would be completed by December.

"This should be a continuing effort. We should have completed the dismantling of the illegal structures before Christmas when traffic volume is expected to increase," he said.

He also directed operatives to avoid dismantling billboards during rush hour so as not to further aggravate traffic.

The campaign to remove illegal and hazardous billboards—which is being conducted not just in Metro Manila but nationwide—has so far led to the dismantling of 819 outdoor advertisements as of Oct. 16.

Of the billboards taken down so far, 426 were in Metro Manila, while 297 were in Central Luzon, 10 of which were located on the North Luzon Expressway.

Bulaong says he's bringing 'asset' to NBI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A DAY AFTER HE TOOK HIS OATH AS THE bureau's new assistant director, former Manila police chief Pedro Bulaong yesterday said that his extensive experience in police work would be his contribution to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"I may not have risen from the ranks of the NBI, but my experience as a law enforcer would surely help the bureau in its activities," Bulaong said.

Before Bulaong's appointment the other day, NBI officials and employees had asked Malacañang to appoint an insider as assistant director of the bureau.

Bulaong said he would temporarily stay at the office of the deputy director for regional operations services before eventually transferring to the office of the assistant director, which is now occupied by NBI Director Nestor Mantaring.

He added that Mantaring will move to the office of the director located in the main building which is undergoing renovation.

As NBI assistant director, Bulaong said he would abide by Mantaring's instructions and orders.

Mantaring, on the other hand, said acting assistant director Alejandro Tenerife Jr. would go back to his previous post of deputy director.

"Tenerife is due to retire on Oct. 30 and he will take a terminal leave until then," he said.

Mantaring had appointed Tenerife, former NBI deputy director for special investigation services, as his assistant after President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him NBI chief in July.

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Sulit	7 days	30.00	27.00	24.00
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	7 days	50.00	45.00	40.00
	30 days	150.00	135.00	120.00

Note: Purchases of load via physical call cards, E-pins or Xpressload will be included in the counting of the ₱750. Not included are Convert-a-Load and load conversions via SMS, The Mall and Sun Prepaid menu.

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Dial *230# and press SEND ⇨ When first level menu appears, select menu number "5. Loyalty Points" ⇨ When second level menu appears, select "2.Registration" ⇨ When third level menu appears, select "1. Create Group" ⇨ Key-in "First name/ Last name/ Address" ⇨ Sun will reply "Group Name" to 1st member ⇨ Send "Group Name" to other friends and potential members

*Group is completed upon registration of the 3rd member. **3rd member has 15 days to register from the creation of the group.

HOW TO JOIN: For 2nd and 3rd Barkada Member
Dial *230# and press SEND ⇨ When first level menu appears, select menu number "5. Loyalty Points" ⇨ When second level menu appears, select "2. Registration" ⇨ When third level menu appears, select "2. Join Group" ⇨ Key-in "Group name/ First name/ Last name/ Address" ⇨ Sun will reply confirmation to sender

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2 Quezon City restaurants shut down for violations

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Gerry's GRILL
LIBIS
BEER

LAGUNA Lake Development Authority General Manager Casimiro Ynares II posts a sign on the door of Gerry's Grill in Libis, Quezon City, after he ordered the restaurant shut for allegedly discharging polluted waste water.

JOAN BONDOC

By Blanche S. Rivera

TWO RESTAURANTS IN QUEZON City were ordered shut yesterday by the Laguna Lake Development Authority for allegedly discharging waste water that failed to meet the agency's standards.

Served with a cease-and-desist order were Gerry's Grill in Libis and The New Albergus restaurant in Capitol Hills.

According to the agency, the two restaurants did not have the necessary LLDA clearance required for businesses in Metro Manila to operate, as well as the discharge permit needed to release waste water.

"Shutting down a company is the least among our options. It is a regretful thing to do but we cannot tolerate their continuous discharge of pollutive waste water that ends up in Laguna Lake," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares II said in a statement.

The LLDA said it had found out as early as March 2001 that Gerry's Grill had no LLDA clearance and discharge permit. The company was served a notice of violation and slapped an annual fine of P5,000.

Albergus, on the other hand, was penalized for the same violations. It was also slapped a daily penalty of P1,000 dating back to April 11, 2005.

Sought for comment, Edith Carreon, a human resources officer of Gerry's Grill, told the INQUIRER that the company's operations and engineering teams will look into the matter.

She added that the closure of one of their branches was expected to be taken up in yesterday's regular management meeting.

The INQUIRER called up The New Albergus restaurant on Capitol Hills but an employee who identified himself as Ghera Fadol said that the manager and all other employees had already gone home.

Wire thieves strike

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT TOOK A TYPHOON BEFORE the maintenance team of Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila, discovered that half a million pesos worth of the hospital's electrical wires had been stolen.

SFO1 Silvano Modo of the Sta. Cruz Police Station said Ernesto Patron, chief engineer of the hospital's maintenance division, filed a complaint on Monday night regarding the theft.

The complaint was filed after a security guard at the hospital saw a man standing on the hospital fence while he was conducting rounds in the area.

The man, however, escaped, leaving behind several meters of electrical wire.

"The incident, it turned out, had taken place before," Modo said, explaining that the hospital has lost at least 300 meters of electrical wires to thieves.

He added that the theft was discovered by Patron at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo" on Sept. 28. Patron had tried to turn on the generator to temporarily restore electricity to the hospital but failed to do so.

"The engineer then realized that the electric wires connecting the generator to the hospital were gone," Modo said.

Manila jail officers accused of maltreating inmates

By Tina G. Santos

CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED against several jail officers who had allegedly maltreated inmates of the Manila City Jail several months ago.

Charged for violating Article 235 of the Revised Penal Code at the Manila Regional Trial Court were Senior Jail Officer Rolly Panado, Jail Officers 2 Canuto Relacion and Reduardo Red, and Jail Officers 1 Roderick Bulan, Ricarte Laxamana, Weyler Awingan, Rodel Borines, Ronald Pabellorin, Ronimar Mansibang, Ritchie Candido, Domingo David, Hannibal Medina and Generoso Uy.

They were accused of meting out harsh punishment, including using a whip and a night stick, on inmates Anthony Tulawan, Ricky Ramos, Marcelo Saturnino, Felipe Collado, Jomar Talib, Nonito Unasin, Roberto Sta. Cruz, Al Tayag, Che Che Ragub, Romeo Reyes, Arnel Yanga, Noel Badeo, Modesto Tiglao and Rodolfo del Rosario.

Records showed that on Feb. 26, jail officer Medina had gone to the inmates' dorm inside the detention facility to conduct a head count when he noticed that several of the prisoners were not wearing shirts.

Medina reportedly became angry and ordered them to perform push-ups. He then got a wooden club and hit them, one after the other, the inmates alleged.

When the jail officer got to inmate Reyes, the other detainees asked him to spare the prisoner because of his age. But Medina reportedly refused, prompting the inmates to gang up on him.

Medina managed to run away but came back a few minutes later with the other respondents.

The inmates claimed that the accused fired their guns while ordering them to get down on the floor.

In addition, the jail officers kicked them, hit them with a whip and a night stick until some of them fell unconscious while the others suffered injuries, the prisoners added.

Assistant City Prosecutor Amalia Gumapos-Ricablanca, who conducted the preliminary investigation, said there was probable cause to hold the accused for trial, saying the complainants were able to sufficiently proved that the respondents had maltreated them.

Gumapos-Ricablanca, however, recommended the dismissal of the complaint filed against jail officer David for lack of probable cause, saying the latter was not mentioned by the inmates as among those who had maltreated them.

IN THE WILD A family goes on a picnic in what seems to be a forest but is actually Rizal Park. Park workers have yet to clear the area of trees felled by Typhoon "Milenyo" weeks ago.

EDWIN BACASMAS

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METROBRIEFS

Free flu shots pushed

PUBLIC schoolchildren in Quezon City may soon have another reason to dread going to school. Seven councilors have urged Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to provide pupils in public elementary schools with free flu shots every year. In a proposed resolution, the councilors said the city should help protect children from influenza by giving them annual injections. They added that the rainy season also means the onset of the flu season, leaving many children bedridden and unable to go to school for days. The councilors said the proposed measure could help contain the spread of influenza in Quezon City. The proponents of the resolution were Resty Malangen, Ariel Inton Jr., Eric Medina, Ramon Medalla, Francisco Calalay Jr., Jorge Banal Jr. and Bayani Hipol. *DJ Yap*

Getting ready for Nov. 1

ALL SAINTS' Day may still be several days away, but the National Capital Region Police Office has already started preparing for the occasion. This early, Director Reynaldo Varilla, NCRPO chief, has placed his troops on heightened alert to ensure that streets are free of criminals once people start trooping to cemeteries to visit their dead on Nov. 1. According to Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr., chief of the NCRPO community relations division, Varilla had issued on Tuesday a memorandum ordering the directors of the five police districts in the metropolis to step up visibility and security in all vital installations, financial zones and other areas where people gather. "Anticriminality programs and intelligence monitoring efforts are being beefed up to prevent enemy groups from taking advantage of the [upcoming] occasion," Cruz said in a statement. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

DID YOU KNOW

THE MANILA Metropolitan Cathedral, more commonly known as the Manila Cathedral, is the only church in the Philippines that has been elevated into a basilica by the Pope without prompting from anyone. Traditionally, the local prelate has to make a petition for the elevation of a church into a basilica. The petition then needs to be approved by the episcopal conference of the country where the church is located, the Congregation for Divine Worship in Vatican and finally, the Pope.

But when Pope John Paul II celebrated his first Mass in the Philippines at the Manila Cathedral in 1981, he was so touched by the liturgical rites that he told then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin that he wanted the church to become a basilica. Almost three months later, in April 1981, he issued a papal bull officially giving Manila Cathedral the title, "Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception."

Churches elevated to the rank of minor basilica often have outstanding architecture, are linked to major religious movements in the country's history, or are related to a saint. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

EDWIN BACASMAS

HARD WORK
Two scavengers work against the tide as they look for reusable materials among the garbage floating on Manila Bay.

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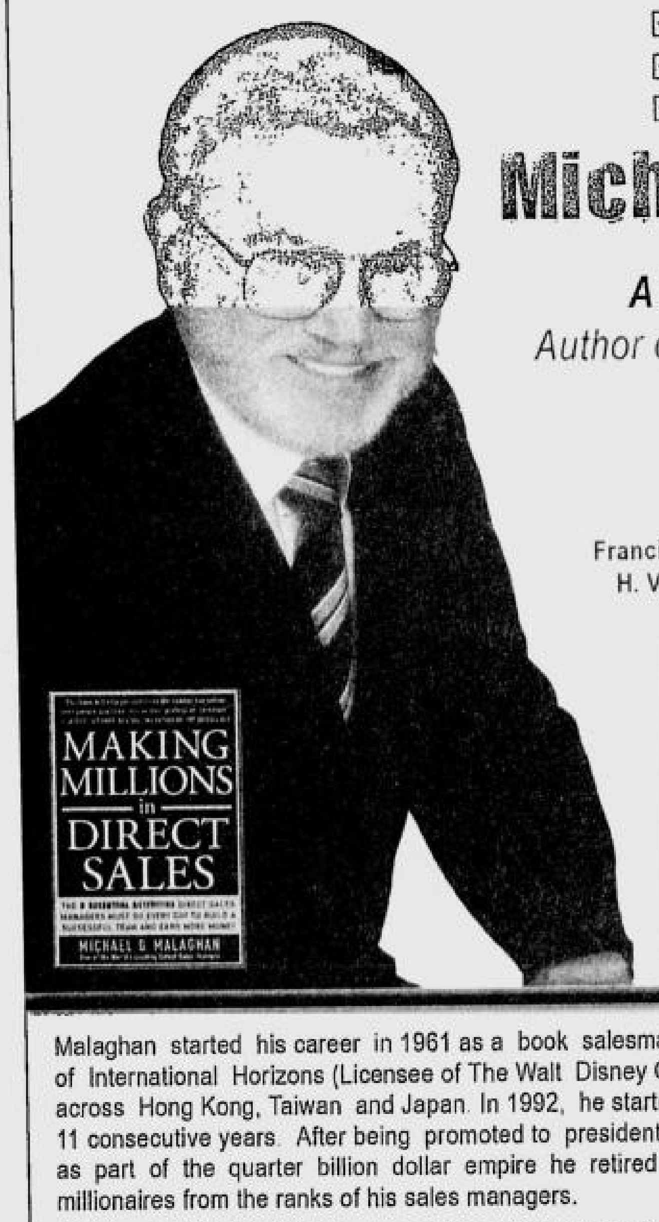

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Thailand to ease ban on gatherings

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S MILITARY-installed government is considering slightly easing the ban on gatherings of more than five people imposed after last month's coup, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said Tuesday.

However, he refused to comment on when martial law would be lifted in the kingdom.

The premier said the government was seeking input from the public on several of its policies, which would require people to meet lawfully to discuss the issues.

"The cabinet agrees that in order to seek people's participation, we need to open opportunities for there to be gatherings of more than five people," he told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting.

Surayud said he would bring the issue to a meeting of security agencies on Tuesday afternoon, and would also consult the military-appointed National Assembly to push for an amendment to slightly ease the ban.

However, he said gatherings should be held in private places, such as universities or government offices, rather than on the streets.

A number of groups—including trade unions, student activists and shopowners—have defied the ban and held demonstrations with minimal police presence and no retaliation from Thailand's military-backed rulers.

Surayud denied the easing of the ban was in response to pressure from foreign countries, which have voiced concerns over restrictions on civil liberties and the imposition of martial law following the Sept. 19 ouster of ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

"I don't think about the (Thailand's) image in foreign countries, I am thinking about how people can participate," he said, adding that martial law would remain in effect for the near future.

Security sources said martial law was unlikely to be lifted this month, amid concerns about possible anticoup movements. However, security agencies have so far failed to produce any evidence of such movements.

On Tuesday, some 200 Thai small shopowners defied martial law to stage a protest demanding international retail giants halt expansion in Thailand for five years to take the pressure off their business.

The shopowners marched through Bangkok's central district to Government House, where they delivered their demands in a letter to military-backed Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont.

Dressed in yellow shirts, out of reverence to Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the protesters carried banners that read "Stop Tesco's Expansion" and "We don't need Tesco." The shopowners are angry at plans by Britain's Tesco supermarket giant to double the number of its smaller outlets to 200 by the end of this year. Tesco also has 51 hypermarkets under construction in the provinces.

The "express markets" have been opening in smaller markets and local shopowners complain that the international giant is driving them out of business.

"The expansion of foreign retailers is like a fire that is burning down local markets across the nation," the shopowners said in their letter to Surayud.

The letter asks the government to force international retailers to halt their expansion plans for five years and to close outlets that opened after the Sept. 19 coup.

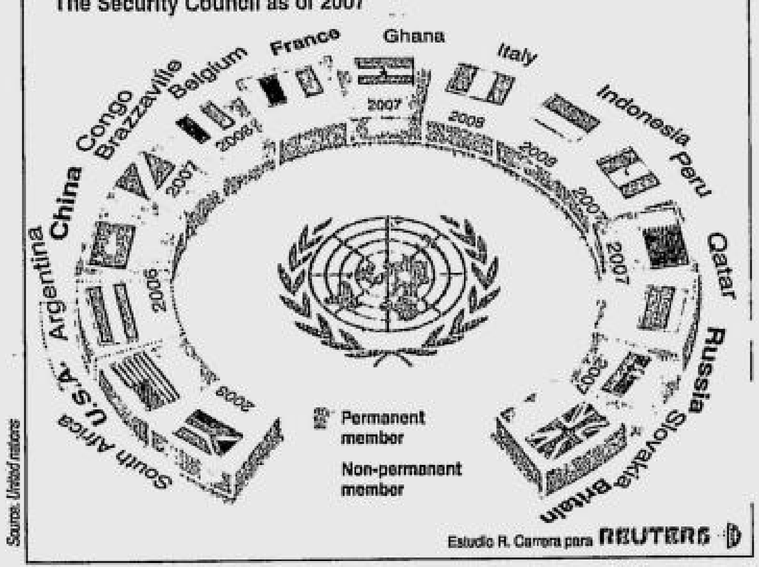
AFP

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

Venezuela and Guatemala tied in voting to replace Argentina as a nonpermanent member on the U.N. Security Council on Monday forcing further rounds of balloting in which a new compromise candidate for the open Latin American seat could emerge

Indonesia, South Africa, Italy and Belgium, were chosen as nonpermanent members replacing, Japan, Tanzania, Greece and Denmark

The Security Council as of 2007



Source: United nations

Estudio R. Carrera para REUTERS

TO BE a nonpermanent member a country must gain two-thirds votes.

Guatemala, Venezuela tied in race for UN seat

UNITED NATIONS—VENEZUELA BLAMED fierce US lobbying for its failure to obtain a seat on the UN Security Council after 10 rounds of voting that left US-backed Guatemala well ahead as the nail-biting battle resumes Tuesday.

Guatemala led in nine of the 10 ballots Monday, but could not get the two-thirds majority necessary to win. Still, the results were a setback for Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who had lobbied hard in capitals around the world, offering millions of petrodollars in aid.

Diplomats said his bombastic speech before the General Assembly in September, when Chavez railed against the United States and called US President George W. Bush "the devil," may have hurt his chances. Even US politicians who had reached out to Chavez criticized the speech.

Neither Venezuela nor Guatemala appeared willing to drop out of the election, which resumes on Tuesday with another round of balloting. Venezuela's UN Ambassador Francisco Arias Cardenas complained the United States pressed countries worldwide to prevent Venezuela from winning the two-year term on the 15-nation council.

"We are fighting against the first power of the world, the owners of the universe," Arias Cardenas said. We're happy, we're strong and we will continue."

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Nearly 100 dead in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Four days of sectarian slaughter killed at least 91 people in Balad, a town near a major US air base an hour's drive north of the capital. Elsewhere, 60 Iraqis died in attacks and 16 tortured bodies were found Monday. The US command said seven American troops died in fighting a day earlier. That raised the US toll to 58 killed in the first two weeks of October, a pace that if continued would make the month the worst for coalition forces since 107 US and 10 British soldiers died in January 2005.

AP

Pope to visit Turkey

ROME—Pope Benedict XVI will visit Turkey next month for his first trip to a Muslim majority country, two months after his comments about Islam sparked uproar, the Vatican confirmed Monday. The visit, which Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone said Saturday would offer a chance for dialogue between religions, would take place from Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, the Vatican press office said. The Pope will arrive in Ankara, then go on to Izmir and Ephesus on Nov. 29, ending up in Istanbul where he will stay until the end of his visit.

AFP

US lawyer jailed

NEW YORK—A New York attorney convicted of aiding terrorism by helping an imprisoned Egyptian client smuggle messages to militant followers was sentenced on Monday to 28 months in prison. Lynne Stewart, 67, was convicted in February 2005 of helping her client, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, to contact the Islamic Group, which the US government lists as a terrorist organization. Prosecutors said messages Stewart passed on for Abdel-Rahman could have incited violence in Egypt. The sheikh was convicted in 1995 of conspiring to attack US targets in a plot prosecutors said included the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Reuters

Rome train collision

ROME—Two people were killed and about 80 were injured, up to a dozen seriously, when two metro trains collided in central Rome during the morning rush hour on Tuesday, rescue services told AFP. "We are currently contacting the hospitals. Besides the two victims we have counted around 80 injured, of whom about 10, a maximum of 12 people, may be in a serious condition," a rescue official said. Mayor Walter Veltroni, speaking at the scene of the accident near Rome's central train station, said a 30-year-old woman was killed.

AFP

Ex-East Timor PM to blame

DILI—A UN report released Tuesday largely blamed East Timor's former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and his government for the violence that wracked the nation earlier this year, saying it illegally armed civilians and recommending a criminal investigation. "Alkatiri . . . failed to use his firm authority to denounce the transfer of security sector weapons to civilians in the face of credible information that such transfer was ongoing and involved members of the government," said the UN Special Commission of Inquiry for East Timor.

AP

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Truck bomb kills 103 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO—SRI LANKA SUFfered its worst suicide attack on Monday when Tiger rebels blew up an explosives-laden truck next to a convoy of sailors, killing at least 103 people and wounding 150 more, police said.

The Sri Lankan military retaliated with air strikes deep inside territory held by the Tigers, the rebels said as the defense ministry said one war plane crashed into a lagoon near here Monday evening during a "training mission." The government said the "barbaric" suicide attack, which coincided with heightened international efforts to restore a 2002 truce, meant the Tamil Tiger guerrillas were not interested in talks scheduled to take place next week in Switzerland.

The bombing occurred about 170 kilometers northeast of Colombo at a transit point in the restive district of Trincomalee for security personnel coming to and from the front line of the drawn-out conflict.

Only the chassis of the truck remained amidst more than a dozen buses parked in an open field where 340 sailors were waiting to leave for their destinations, officials said.

Rescue workers made a pile of automatic assault rifles and hard helmets of sailors who perished. The windows of buses parked there smashed.

The fate of dozens of civilian traders selling tea and sweets to the security personnel was not immediately known, police said adding that several civilians may have also died.

The government in a statement expressed "deep shock" over the bombing while the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) tacitly admitted they carried it out.

"When Sri Lanka air force bombers continue to bomb targets in Tamil homeland ... how could anybody expect the Tigers to refrain from targeting military installations," the pro-rebel tamilnet.com website quoted Tiger spokesperson Rasiah Ilanthiriyan as saying.

He said there were unspecified civilian casualties in air attacks carried out by the military after the bombing.

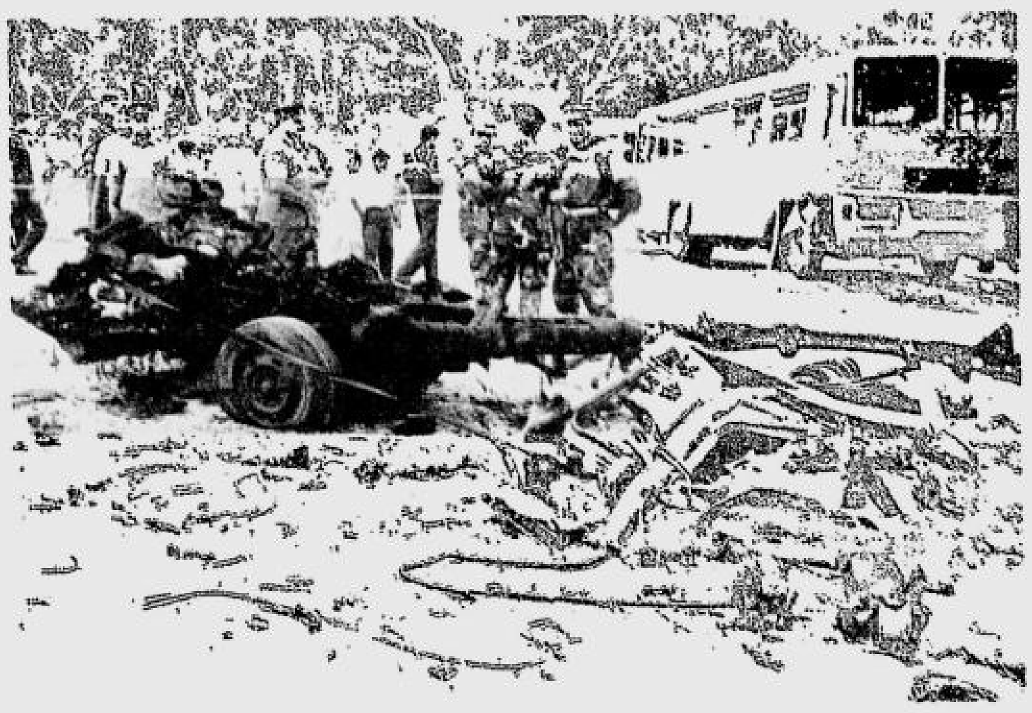
"The truck had driven into the middle of the open ground, and then the explosives were detonated," a local police official told AFP by telephone. "There were about 15 buses."

Doctors said that 98 bodies were at the nearby Dambulla hospital, four more people died while being taken by road to a hospital in the major town of Kurunegala while another died at Anuradhapura hospital.

"This barbaric attack on unarmed sailors shows that the Tigers are not worried about international opinion," said government defense spokesperson Keheliya Rambukwella, who is also the minister of policy planning.

"We are keen on negotiations, but the Tigers are not."

Last week, Tigers fiercely resisted a major military onslaught, killing at least 133 soldiers and wounding 500 in two hours of fighting, according to government figures. *AFP*



SOLDIERS guard the site of a suicide bomb attack in Habarana, about 190 km northeast of the capital Colombo Oct. 16. REUTERS

Bush set to sign antiterror bill

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush is signing a law that sets tough standards for interrogation and prosecution of terror suspects, a major White House victory that demonstrates Bush still has the political power to set the rules of war even as Iraq clouds his presidency.

Bush's plan becomes law just six weeks after he acknowledged that the CIA had been secretly interrogating suspected terrorists overseas and pressed Congress to quickly give authority to try them in military commissions.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said that after Bush signs the legislation Tuesday, the government will immediately begin moving toward the goal of prosecuting some of the high-value suspects being held at the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He expected it would take a month or two to get "things moving toward a trial phase."

"In terms of having trials, for good and obvious reasons, you don't do that overnight," Snow told reporters. "You do have to make sure that the defense is going to be able to do its job properly and the prosecution the same."

The swift implementation of the law is a rare bit of good news for Bush as casualties mount in Iraq in daily violence. *AP*

Disney to shun junk food endorsements

WALT DISNEY, ADDRESSing the growing concerns of parents over child nutrition, said Monday that it would curtail the use of its name and characters with food items that did not meet new nutritional standards.

The new guidelines would limit how much sugar, calories and fat could be in snacks and foods marketed by companies that Disney has licensing relationships with.

The move, which comes at a time of mounting worry about childhood obesity, is likely to put pressure on the company's competitors to follow suit. Left outside the scope of Monday's initiative was any mention of the considerable advertising for junk food products that is carried on Disney's television networks, especially Toon Disney and ABC Kids. *New York Times News Service*

N. Korea blasts UN sanctions

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA on Tuesday blasted UN sanctions aimed at punishing the country for its atomic test, saying the measures were a declaration of war and that the nation wouldn't cave in to such pressure now that it's a nuclear weapons power.

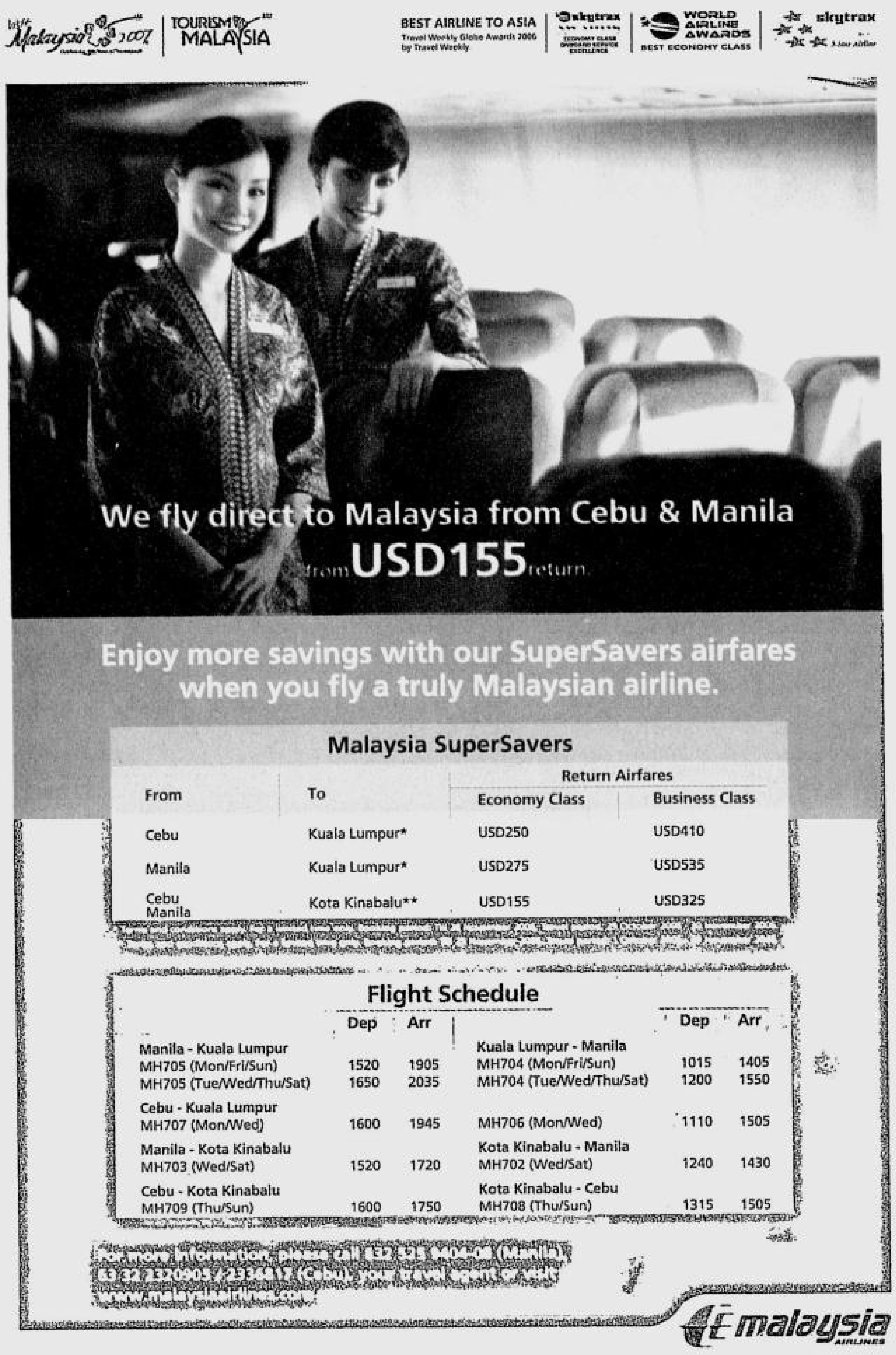
The bellicose remarks—the central government's first response to the UN measures approved last weekend—came as China warned the North against stoking tensions and the American nuclear envoy arrived in South Korea for talks.

The North broke two days of silence about the UN resolution adopted after its Oct. 9 nuclear test, issuing a Foreign Ministry statement on its official Korean Central News Agency.

"The resolution cannot be construed otherwise than a declaration of a war" against the North, also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the statement said.

The North warned it "wants peace but is not afraid of war" and that it would "deal merciless blows" against anyone who violated its sovereignty.

The communist nation "had remained unfazed in any storm and stress in the past when it had no nuclear weapons," the statement said. "It is quite nonsensical to expect the DPRK to yield to the pressure and threat of someone at this time when it has become a nuclear weapons state." *AP*



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Manila - Kuala Lumpur			Kuala Lumpur - Manila		
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MH705 (Tue/Wed/Thu/Sat)	1650	2035	MH704 (Tue/Wed/Thu/Sat)	1200	1550
Cebu - Kuala Lumpur					
MH707 (Mon/Wed)	1600	1945	MH706 (Mon/Wed)	1110	1505
Manila - Kota Kinabalu			Kota Kinabalu - Manila		
MH703 (Wed/Sat)	1520	1720	MH702 (Wed/Sat)	1240	1430
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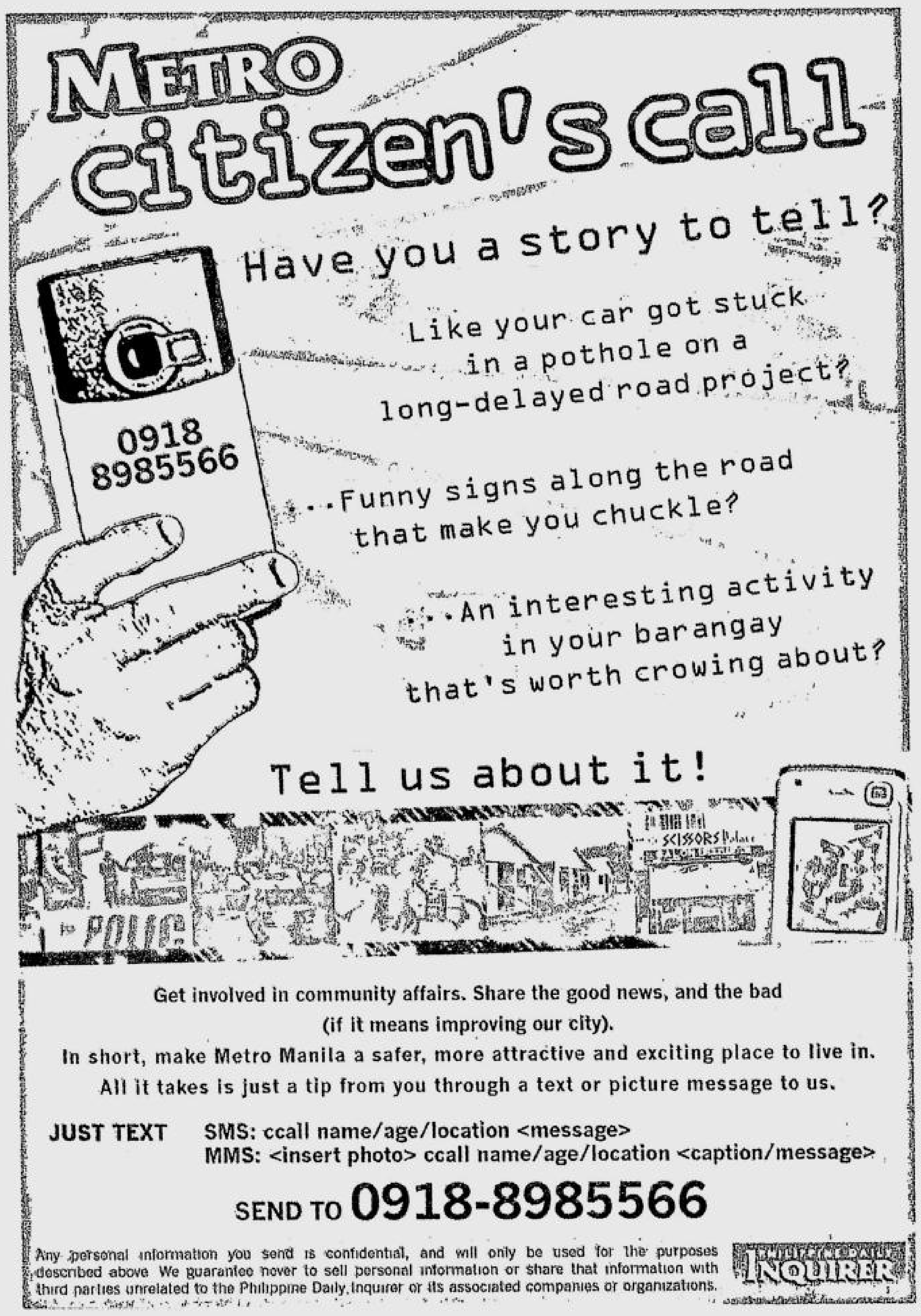

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE

NCAA teams shine in Champs League/A26

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Paeng named flag-bearer for 15th Doha Asiad/A27

Phone Pals seek top vs hard-luck Express

RYAN LIM

TNT'S prized acquisition Jay Washington battles Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo for possession in a recent game. The Phone Pals won, 108-99.

FORGET THAT TALK 'N TEXT WILL BE shooting for the solo lead in the PBA Philippine Cup at the moment. The Phone Pals are such a strong, talent-loaded group they shouldn't be far from that place at any time to begin with.

Of particular interest to the pundits is how Air21, a team so young and so determined, can rise up to the misfortunes it suffered in the tournament the past week.

The Phone Pals and the Express clash in the 7:20 p.m. game at the Araneta Coliseum tonight, with Talk 'N Text shooting for a fourth straight win and the hard-luck Air21 gunning to end a string of three painful defeats.

Air21 will be coming off a 101-103 loss to defending champion Purefoods last Saturday, when the team almost erased a 29-point deficit before getting the perfect chance to win it all at the buzzer.

But before that, the Express were the first team to push powerhouse Barangay Ginebra to the limit, losing by a point, 114-113, in a game where they also trailed for most part.

Close shaves are not rewarded in this league, and those losses could affect the Express only in two ways—they could fold up altogether or finally win one after learning so much.

Arwind Santos, the former Far Eastern University ace in the UAAP who was selected by the Express as second overall in the Rookie Draft, may be the person most pained by those losses.

After carrying the fight for the Express against the Gin Kings with 24 points and 10 boards and the team falling just short, Santos had a perfectly lined three-point attempt sail just inches long at the buzzer which could have won it for Air21 over Purefoods.

The Chunkee Giants, meanwhile, shoot for back-to-back wins when they collide against Coca-Cola, a side also on cloud nine after bringing Red Bull down with a loud thud last week, 105-86.

"I'd like to think that we're back," said Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio, who dropped his first two assignments before that high-wire act against Air21. "But one win does not make a tournament and a scary win like that means we still need a lot of work to do."

Asi Taulava and the rest of the high-profile frontline of the Phone Pals will be the biggest worries of the Express, who have a tall roster of their own but one which sometimes does not earn the credit it deserves. *Musong R. Castillo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	3	0
Talk 'N Text	3	0
Red Bull	3	1
Ginebra	3	1
Welcoat	2	2
Purefoods	1	2
Coca-Cola	1	2
Alaska	1	3
San Miguel	0	3
Air21	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk N Text

Indon, Taiwan fives in NBC

CRACK INDONESIAN AND TAIWANESE TEAMS WILL see action in a five-day international basketball tournament organized by the National Basketball Conference. Called the Gov. Wilfredo Enverga-NBC International Cup, the short tourney will feature Garuda Panasia of the Indonesian Basketball League, two teams from Taiwan's Super Basketball League and local squads led by host Quezon and businessman Armando Quibod's Montaña Pawnshop-Davao Jewelers. The Governor Enverga-NBC International Cup is scheduled Nov. 23-27 at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

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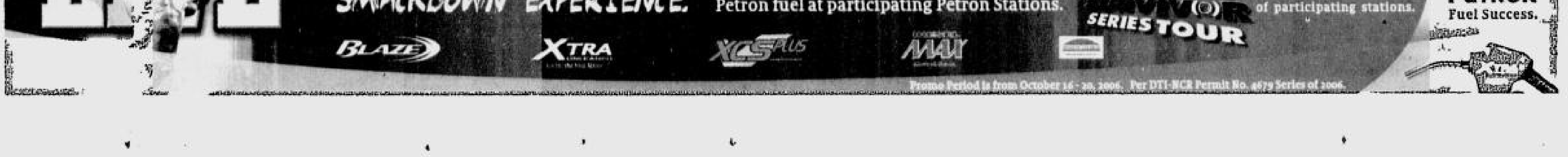

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

NCAA teams shine

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—UE vs Mapua
3 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE NCAA IS MAKING A CASE FOR ITSELF AS THE better varsity league, as three of its teams survived a series of knockout matches to reach the semifinals of the Champions League.

Newly crowned NCAA champion San Beda Lions, the Mapua Cardinals and the Jose Rizal Bombers will vie for a championship slot tomorrow.

The UAAP on the other hand, has seen its top two teams this season bow out of contention from the national championship. Left to carry the UAAP flag in the Final Four are the University of the East Warriors.

The eighth-ranked Cardinals ousted the top-seeded Ateneo Blue Eagles, 70-66, last Saturday to become one of the surprise semifinalists in the knockout-style tournament that pits the top 16 varsity squads in the country.

A wildcard entry, the Bombers also stunned UAAP champion Santo Tomas Tigers, before disposing NCAA heavyweight Letran Knights.

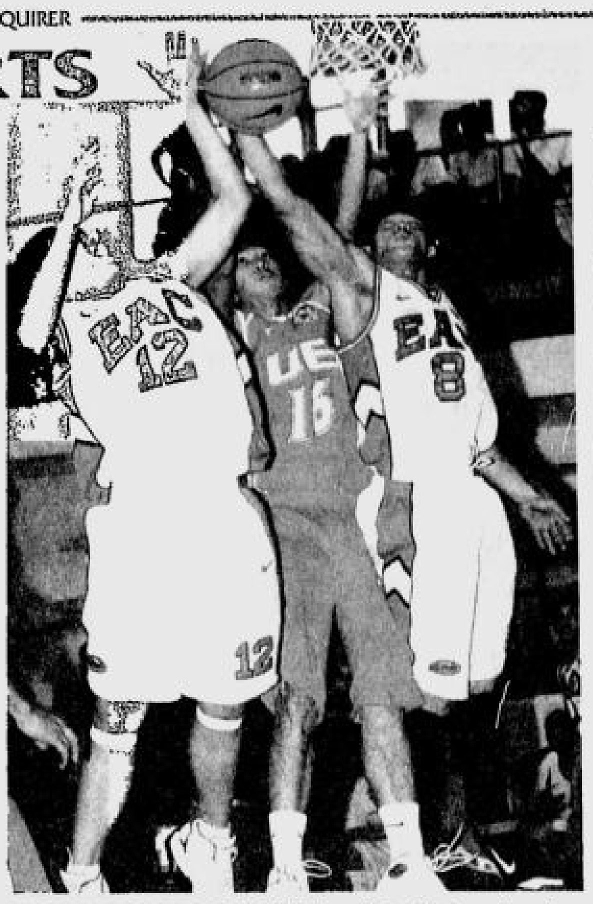
"We're used to the physical game in the NCAA," said coach Ariel Vanguardia after the Bombers humbled the Tigers, 65-63, in the first round. "I think they weren't able to adjust. Our team really wanted to win. We've been practicing. We haven't taken a vacation."

UE coach Dindo Pumaren, though, said the early exit of UAAP teams hardly indicates that the league has lesser talent.

The tournament, he noted, started just days after the UAAP wrapped up its basketball season.

"The timing was a factor," said Pumaren. "Most of the teams are still drained. Like UST, they're still overwhelmed after winning the championship."

UE will battle Mapua at 1 p.m., while San Beda will take on JRU at 3 p.m. in the semifinal duels tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.



MARK BORBORAN (middle) and the University of the East Warriors will carry the UAAP flag. ERIK ARAZAS

Letter: And win they did!

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

DEAR SIR,

Yesterday, I read your article in the Inquirer entitled "UST defies a Commandment to win." Towards the end, you said, "There must have been some supernatural intervention out there at the Big Dome Monday night." I just want you to know that you were not far from the truth.

If you noticed, the Growling Tigers were wearing the number 4 up their right sleeve. This was the jersey number of their teammate, John Lee A. Apil, who died of electrocution last April 15, Black Saturday, during the Lenten Season. I would like to believe that Apil, as he is fondly called by his teammates, is "the supernatural intervention."

Apil was the only child of Charlie and Ines Apil of Calamagui, Solana, Cagayan. Losing their darling Tiger took away the light of their life, and their pain and anguish were indescribable. At the beginning of the UAAP season, their grief prevented them from watching the games. They looked forward to watching their son play in the UAAP for the second season. Apil's absence was excruciating. It was only when the Growling Tigers began to flounder that Charlie and Ines started watching with a heavy heart.

In their humble home there is this big picture of Apil before which Charlie and Ines would sit and stare for hours. In their darkest moments, they would beg him to pray for the victory of the Growling Tigers. If he could not play, then he could pray. Even when things looked bleak for the Tigers, everyone of us cried to Apil for "Divine intervention."

When UST and Ateneo ended up in a tie at the end of regulation play and were given an extension, I lighted a candle at my altar and prayed: "Lord, Apil's horrific death caused us all so much pain but somehow this pain will be greatly soothed if we know for certain that he is now happy with You in heaven. We implore you to give us a sign, we ask you to make the Tigers win this last game, give the championship to them!" And win they did! Apil is in heaven!

Not to downplay the prowess of the Growling Tigers but, just as you said, UST is not the better team, they just had a John Lee Apil up there beside the Almighty.

Sincerely,
Sofia de Asis, M.D.
Commercio St. CNE
Solano, Cagayan

Nota Bene:

I am a Thomasian, having graduated from UST in 1981 (BS Zoology) and in 1986 (Doctor of Medicine). Needless to say I'm proud of my Alma Mater, with or without the UAAP title.

John Lee Apil was the boyfriend of my niece, Pethereene Aggabao. Apil was in that Cortez Resort at my invitation. He was coming to the rescue of two other friends who were electrocuted by the lamp post beside the pool. He too was electrocuted, he tripped and he grasped the same post for support, not knowing that in that post was a live wire.

We helplessly watched as he convulsed to his death. It was too much to take, even for a jaded doctor like me. I am now helping the parents find justice for their son. The resort did not have any building permit and electrical plan, their electrical connections were in total disarray. We have filed criminal and civil cases against the owners.

The Tigers came to Solana for Apil's wake and for his 40th day to say adieu and to help raise funds for the litigation of the case.

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP derby at SJC today

THE WILD AND UNPREDICTABLE BATTLE IN THE Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby series resumes at 5 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum with 75 fights in the program backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The first four legs have produced different champions, making the race for the 2006 GCAP Stagfighter of the Year more exciting, said GCAP stalwart Patrick Antonio. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665.

Diamante finals up at RMC

MORE THAN 100 FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP THE championship round of the Diamante Brothers 5-Stag Derby which kicks off at 4 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit with Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. From a field of 117, only 17 participants posted 2 points each. Promoter Rolly Ligon has reduced the admission price to P300.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Dancing Slew (6), Kalashnikov (1), Earth Angel (5), Top Most (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Fancy (1), Khokwak (9), Mr. Love (8), Mestiso Mio (3), Ask Alexi (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Hot Water (5), Dona Gelay (4), The warrior (8), Mesmerize (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Don Ramon (8), Words Of Joy (9), Mainstay (1), Extreme Romance (5), Binukalan's Pride (4)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrty/Tri)—Queen Of Caja/Habagat (5), Leading Man (11), Lady Be Cold (6), Soothing Silver (8), Golden Africa (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Style (6), Friendly Venture (13), Paminsanminsan (2), Euphoria (8), Lightning Strike (7)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Revelation (5), Letshaveaparty (1), Daddy's Girl (11), Magic Dancer (8), Fine Offer (6)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Showtime Lady (10), Inca (6), Hazit Coming (3), Native Prince (2), Be MY Pride (14), Cartada Nueve (12)

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TECHRON

What Drives You CALTEX

S'woods-Masters opens 6-point lead

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

BAGUIO CITY—CLAUDINE GARCIA POSTED THE FIRST-ROUND BEST OF 46 points to pace Manila Southwoods-Masters to the Group 1 lead at the start of the fourth Camp John Hay Asian Ladies Team Championships at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Living up to its top-seed billing, Southwoods amassed 126 points as Bernadette Abiera backed up her skipper with 42 and Sandy Velhagen made 38 under the three-to-score, four-to-play format.

The Carmona, Cavite-based squad opened up a six-point lead over Tagaytay Highlands (120) which drew a couple of 43s from Hedy See and Marilen Yaptangco and a 34 from Farrah Imperial.

Holding third at 118 was Aguinaldo-Sampaguita, followed by host Camp John Hay 1 (115) and Forest Hills Nicklaus (114).

But roles were reversed in Group II with Tagaytay Highlands II wresting the upper hand from Manila Southwoods-Legends (105-101), while a Korean team playing under the banner of World Professional Golf Teachers Association (WPGTA) showed the way in Group III with 93.

Balanced scoring carried the day for Tagaytay Highlands II as Maline Flores scored 36, Mely Leyesa 35 and Rosalie Heo 34. Marge Tan, who did not count, had a 33.

The Tagaytay ladies actually were a force to reckon with in all three divisions of this three-day, 54-hole tournament as they trailed the WPGTA squad by five in Group III with 88, two up on Baguio Country Club and Philippine Axa Life.

Garcia, who built her frontrunning card at the par-69 Camp John Hay Golf Club course on 11 pars, showed the way in the individual race by 3 over See and Yaptangco of Tagaytay Highlands.

Jo Barredo of Villamor and Matet Salivio of Aguinaldo-Rosal paced Group II while Sonia Bruce of Baguio Country Club led Group III.

The scores:

Group 1—Manila Southwoods-Masters 126; Tagaytay Highlands 1 120; Aguinaldo-Sampaguita 118; Camp John Hay 1 115; Forest Nicklaus 114; Sta. Elena 109; Forest Palmer 102; Riviera Ladies 97.

Group II—Tagaytay Highlands II 105; Manila Southwoods-Legends 101; Forest Hills 98; Villamor 94; Golf Divas 93; Aguinaldo-Rosal 91; Korean Ladies Association 91; C John Hay 87; Malarayat Ladies I 75.

Group III—WPGTA 93; Tagaytay Highlands III, Baguio Country Club 86; Philippina Axa Life 86; Don Bosco Golf Team 83; Malarayat Ladies II 66; Bioga 66; Aguinaldo-Ilang Ilang 61.

Paeng named flag-bearer anew for 15th Doha Asiad

By June Navarro

NEPOMUCENO

HE FIRST CARRIED the Philippine flag in the Hiroshima Asian Games 12 years ago.

Now, Paeng Nepomuceno, hailed as the greatest Filipino athlete of all time, will again be accorded the honor come the 15th Asian Games' inaugural in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1.

Mark Joseph, deputy secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committee, yesterday announced the selection of the 49-year-old Nepomuceno, honored as International Bowler of the Millennium by the world FIQ, the sport's governing body.

Nepomuceno, the only four-time World Cup titlist and six-time world champion, will lead the 351-strong RP delegation in the 45-country parade for Asia's biggest sporting event.

"It's a big honor for me," said Nepomuceno, who won a silver medal in the Hiroshima Asiad. "But being the country's flag-bearer is a big responsibility. I'll try to give my best in Doha."

Nepomuceno, who also carried the flag twice in the Southeast Asian Games, captured his first Asiad gold medal in 2002 in Busan, South Korea, when he ruled the doubles with RJ Bautista.

Sans Bautista this time, Nepomuceno, the only Filipino recipient of the International Olympic Committee president's trophy and a consistent entry in the Guinness World Records since 1994, will defend the title with another partner.

Meanwhile, 34 athletes comprise the first wave of Filipinos that will leave for Doha on Nov. 26.

Twenty-two Filipino baseball players will be departing on a chartered flight along with three athletes each from table tennis, rowing, badminton and equestrian.

Two days later, 13 swimmers and divers will join athletes in beach volleyball (6), boxing (12), chess (5), gymnastics (3), judo (8) sepak takraw (11), shooting (16), soft tennis (9) and weightlifting (3) on a nine-hour flight to Doha.

The Games village can only accommodate 316 Filipino athletes and officials at a time, forcing sports officials to juggle the schedules of departure and arrival of the entire delegation.

The 267 athletes will be feted by President Macapagal-Arroyo today at Malacañang Palace.

WBL: St. Scho shocks UST

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE (MANILA) opened its campaign in the 19th Women's Basketball League on a big note Sunday by beating defending college champion Santo Tomas, 43-31, at the Xavier School sports complex.

The shocker marked the start of the four-level women's cagefest organized by BEST Center and sponsored by Milo.

Defending elementary titlist Miriam College lived up to expectations by crushing Assumption College, 55-10.

Community of Learners downed Poveda Learning Centre, 28-16, in the only other elementary contest.

In the high school developmental level, St. James walloped St. Theresa's, 49-17; St. Anthony ripped Southville IS, 33-14; Montessori Integrated School routed St. Scholastica-Westgrove, 29-1; Grace Christian subdued Colegio de Sta. Rosa, 27-18; Assumption-Antipolo toppled Jose Abad Santos MS, 25-18; and UP Integrated School nosed out First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith), 14-13.

New Era beat Holy Spirit, 51-39; La Salle-Antipolo outsteadied Community of Learners, 48-39; and Angelicum clobbered Assumption, 44-32, in the high school competitive group while La Salle-Lipa shaded Assumption, 47-44, in the college match.

Gomez lands 30th in World Juniors chess

FILIPINO NATIONAL MASTER John Paul Gomez bowed to International Master David Howell of England in the final round late Monday and settled for 30th place in the World Juniors Chess Championships in Yerevan, Armenia.

Gomez finished with 7.0 points in the event won by Armenian IM Zaven Andriasian with 9.5 points. For his feat, Andriasian became an outright grandmaster.

As a consolation, Gomez earned his third and final IM result. He now has an Elo rating of 2387, just a few points short of the 2400 he needs to become a full-fledged IM.

WGM Shen Yang of China topped the girls division. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Cellular Pawnshop vs Pagadian today

PAGADIAN CITY—NEWcomer Cellular Pawnshop goes up against unbeaten Pagadian today, seeking its first win in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup at the local gym.

Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers are favored to rack up their third straight victory in as many games in the 6 p.m. contest.

Businessman Paulo Ybanez's Cellular cagers hope to bounce back from their 52-71 loss to Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan in their debut in the tournament.

"The players are still adjusting. I hope they're already in top form when they play the strong Pagadian Explorers," said Ybanes.

The Cellulars will be led by Marlon Kalaw, Jun Balares, Randy Lopez, Jake Codamon and Louie Aquino.

The Explorers lost playmaker Lou Gatumbato to Ozamiz, but they got a dynamic duo in ex-PBA star Nelson Asaytono and Melvin Mamaclay.

The other Pagadian reliables are Peter Naron, Bong Marata and Michael Orquillas.

"After losing in the finals to Ozamiz, we plugged the holes and looked for depth. We got more than what we bargained for in Nelson (Asaytono) and Melvin (Mamaclay)," said Co.

Meanwhile, the other scheduled game tonight between Bacchus/Harbour and Montana Pawnshop-Davao has been moved back to Oct. 20 due to a snafu in travel schedule.

Ardina, Rodriguez, De Villa open RP's World Amateur bid

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA—IT WILL BE AN EARly test of will, power and putting as Junior World champions Dottie Ardina and Cyna Rodriguez along with reigning RP Ladies Open titlist Debbie de Villa open the country's bid against Colombia and Germany in the World Amateur Golf Team Championships which fires off Wednesday at the De Zalze Golf Club. The 12-year-old Ardina takes on Eileen Vargas of Colombia and Sandra Gal of Germany in the 10:23 a.m. flight. The 14-year-old Rodriguez plays against Colombian Maria Uribe and German Caroline Masson in the 10:34 a.m. group, while De Villa, 16, battles Carolina Llano of Colombia and Katharina Schallenberg of Germany in the 10:45 a.m. flight.

UST lady booters scuttle Sphere as Ang Liga starts

STRIKER JOYCE LANDANGAN scored two goals as Santo Tomas subdued a plucky but raw Sphere squad, 3-1, on Saturday at the start of the PFF Ang Liga Pilipina football tournament at the UST soccer field.

Landangan rammed in goals in the eighth and 60th minutes before teammate Josephine Luto scored in the 63rd in the first match of the event sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and organized by the Philippine Women's National Football Association.

Pia Santos scored in the 56th for the lone goal of the Sphere booters, some of whom were no older than 14 years old.

Sphere sorely missed the services of national striker Edna Agravante, whose mother died of a stroke on the eve of the event.

In games held last Sunday at the Marikina Sports Complex pitch, St. Benilde nipped San Beda, 2-1, while Candidates beat Far Eastern, 1-0.

Nomads was scheduled to make its debut yesterday against UST.

AF3 drums up BRC races

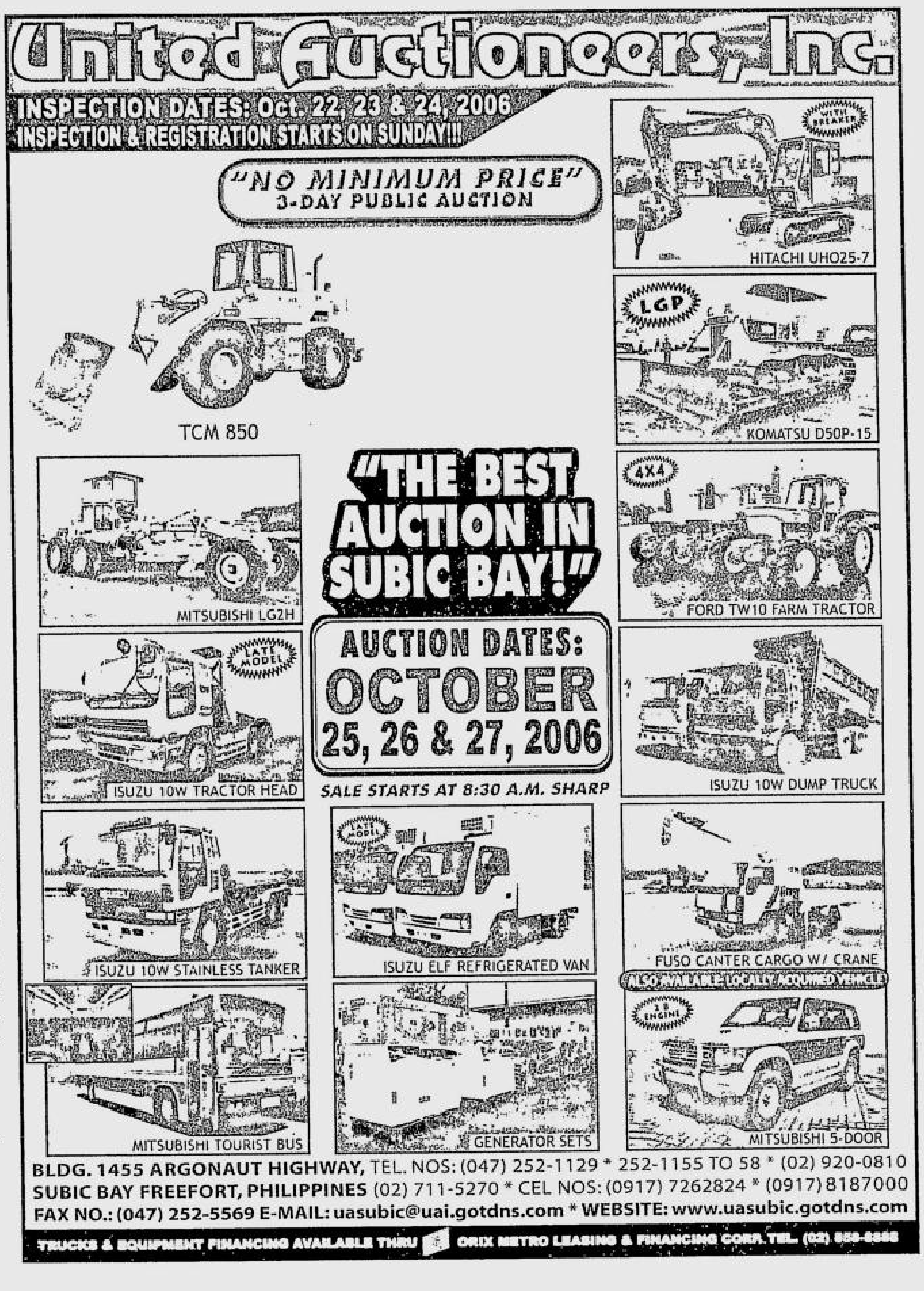
FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS year, racing enthusiasts will get a closer look at their racing heroes and their powerful racing machines when the Asian Formula Three Corp. holds its street drive, this time at the Mall of Asia, on Oct. 27.

Local and foreign racers led by Tyson Sy, Dado Peña and James Winslow will display their skills aboard their Formula Three cars at the Esplanade of the Mall of Asia for the benefit of racing fans.

An AF3 street drive was first held in April on Roxas Boulevard.

"We are holding another street drive to again show to racing fans that the Philippines is the leader in motorsports in Asia," said AF3 Corp. chair Eddie Peña. "We are showcasing Filipino talent that is up to par with international standards."

The street drive is also intended to drum up interest for the last four rounds of the AF3 series set Nov. 4-5 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.



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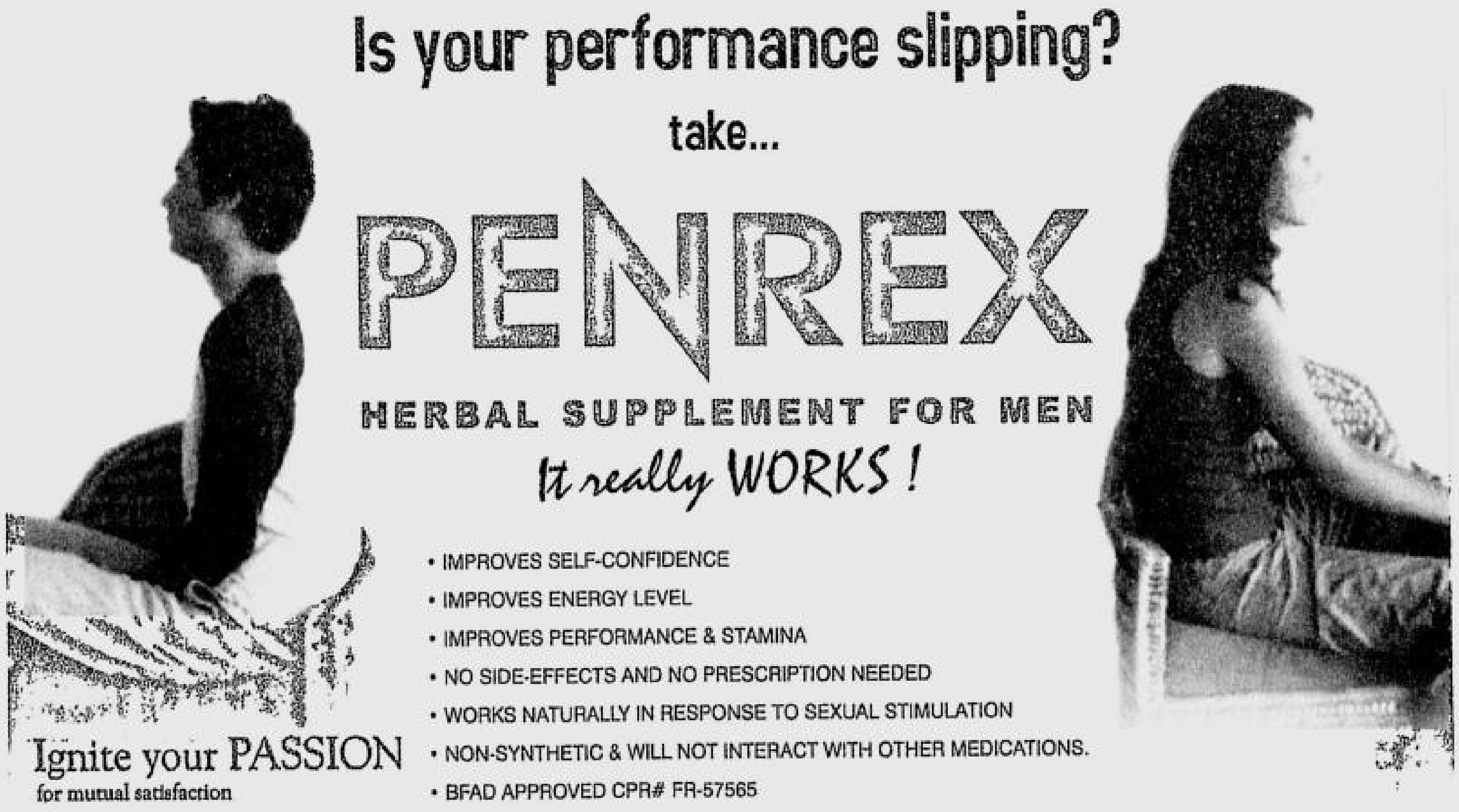

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SPORTS

Cardinals star hurting

Rain postpones St. Louis-New York Game 5

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—ST. LOUIS SLUGGER ALBERT PUJOLS, the 2005 National League Most Valuable Player, has a strained right hamstring that is limiting his hitting power in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

That's the explanation Cardinals manager Tony La Russa gave here Monday for the first baseman's struggles with the bat during the league finals series against the New York Mets.

The series, level at two wins each, will continue Tuesday after Monday's game was rained out. Game six will be Wednesday in New York and a seventh if needed will be in New York on Thursday.

Either the Mets or Cardinals will face the Detroit Tigers in the World Series best-of-seven championship showdown starting Saturday in Detroit.

Pujols is hitting 4-for-14 and has not knocked in a run so far against the Mets.

"We can win with him getting on base, whether it's a single or a walk or a double," La Russa said. "I mean, you probably noticed, he's laboring when he runs. His right hamstring is a real problem, his drive leg.

"He can hit some home runs if he catches it right, but he's not going to be generating as much power, but he can still generate base hits. Just got to be careful running."

Pujols set career highs with 49 home runs and 137 runs batted in this season despite playing a career-low 143 games. He is batting .310 (9-for-29) with a homer and three RBI in the playoffs but has not driven in a run since the second game of the first round series over San Diego. *AFP*

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GETTING READY: Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett (21) drives to the hoop during the third quarter of a preseason NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis. Garnett finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds as Minnesota defeated Indiana, 103-87. AP

Hingis wins Zurich tennis start

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—FIFTH-seeded Martina Hingis began her bid for a second Zurich Open title with a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Anna-Lena Groenefeld in Monday's first round.

It was Hingis' first match on home soil and her first appearance at the tournament in six years.

"I'm returning defending champion," Hingis joked. "There were a lot of people that I know and friends who came to see the match. It's always special to play in front of a home crowd."

The 26-year-old Swiss reached the Zurich final in 1996 and '99 and won in 2000, but has been absent since. She was injured in 2001 and '02, and retired in early '03 with foot and ankle injuries.

In the only other first-round match, Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik handed Mary Pierce of France her fourth straight defeat since the US Open, 6-3, 7-5.

Hingis wrapped up her first set against Groenefeld in only 21 minutes. *AP*

Viloria-Niño rematch set in Pacman-Morales card

FIL-AM BRIAN VILORIA GETS THE chance to redeem himself when he fights Mexican tormentor Omar Niño in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales "Grand Finale" on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

According to a press release sent by Bob Arum's Top Rank, it was formally announced yesterday that Niño, who upset Viloria and won the WBC light flyweight championship on Aug. 10, will defend against "The Hawaiian Punch" Viloria.

Niño, 24-2-1, of Guadalajara, dished out a major upset when he outboxed and handed Viloria his first loss in their first meeting.

"I went into the ring with one thing on my mind—to go in there and win the world title," Niño said. "The key was pressure. I like to put on pressure and that's how I beat Viloria the first time. I have no problems giving him a rematch."

The Hawaii-raised Viloria, 19-1-0, who insists that he didn't fight his fight that night, welcomed the opportunity to get back at Niño and brighten up his smeared reputation before Filipinos.

Top Rank also announced that super featherweight Juan Carlos Salgado, 16-0-1, of Mexico City, will box on the "Grand Finale" promoted by Top Rank. He is scheduled for eight rounds.

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Triathlon series ends in Alabang Saturday

FORMER NATIONAL CHAMPION George Vilog formalizes his claim to the championship of the 2006 Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) this Sunday in the final leg of the series at Narra Park in Ayala Alabang Village.

About 150 up-and-coming and veteran triathletes are seeing action in the race, comprising of a 950-meter swim, 28-kilometer bike and 7-km run and organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap).

Vilog earlier won NAGT legs in Davao City, Los Baños in Laguna, and the Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga, to clinch the series title. He did not compete in the other legs in Danao City and Cagayan de Oro.

Vilog's return to form has earned him reinstatement to the national training team next year.

"We are confident that George will be a valuable addition to the team for next year," said Trap president Tom Carrasco Jr.

Carrasco said that in Sunday's race—also sponsored by Powerbar, Fitness First, David's Salon and Spa, and the Asian Centre for Insulation Phils. Inc. and held in partnership with the Ayala Alabang Village Association (Aava)—junior triathletes and beginner adults can compete in the mini triathlon on a course set for a 350m swim, 17.6K bike and 6K run.

Registration will end Saturday for an entry fee of P800. Fee for race-day registrants is P1,000.

Entry forms are available at the Aava administration office, Trap Makati Office at Unit 514 Makati Executive Center, Leviste corner Rufino streets, Makati; POC office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, and at Speedo concept stores at The Podium, Megamall, Alabang Town Center and Mall of Asia.

Futures caging gets backing

SPORTS SHOE AND APPAREL GIANT Nike has thrown its support for the Futures Basketball League (FBL), the newest nationwide and school-based basketball program.

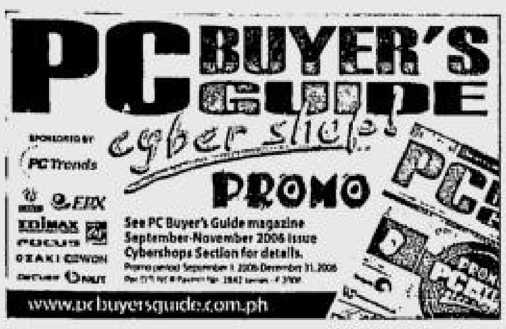
"We recognize the potential of the FBL and its contribution to basketball grassroots development, and this goes in tandem with Nike's own directions for youth sports worldwide," said Nike sports marketing manager Tony Atayde.

Nike will award prizes to all the FBL division and age group MVPs.

"The FBL holds a lot of promise, we believe it will develop into a major youth basketball league," said Nike country director Ariel Fermion.

Meanwhile, Miriam College leads the tournament with 3-0 slate.

In the boys' mini division, Lourdes School and La Salle-Green Hills won over their respective opponents to take the lead. Lourdes beat St. Mary's, 44-39, while LSGH defeated Don Bosco-Mandaluyong, 50-33.



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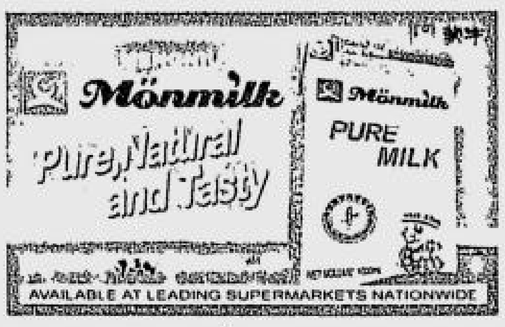

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Gov't swings to a budget deficit in Sept.

9-month gap still way below ₱122-B ceiling

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION SWUNG TO A budget deficit in September on increased spending, but remained on track to posting a below-target shortfall for 2006.

The government posted a budget shortfall of P16.2 billion last month, or 30-percent higher than the target.

This came after a surplus in August and brought the budget deficit for the first nine months of 2006 to P50.4 billion, still way off the P122-billion target.

Analysts were unperturbed by the September deficit, arguing the government needed to raise spending on infrastructure and social services to spur economic growth.

"We are seeing a kind of weakness in expenditures, part of this was because of lower-than-programmed interest costs," said Nicholas Bibby, regional economist and strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore.

"We've seen delays in infrastructure spending," Bibby said.

The improving fiscal picture has raised hopes for a credit upgrade for the Philippines soon. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had said the country might get it within the next six months.

Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings now have a stable outlook for the Philippines—both upgraded from negative earlier this year—while Moody's Investor Service has a negative outlook.

Government spending is expected to pick up in the fourth quarter after Congress agreed to a supplemental budget of P46.4 billion for this year.

President Macapagal Arroyo's spending plans for 2006 were tripped up by foes in Congress, who failed to pass her P1.05-trillion budget. The government instead had to rely on rolling over the 2005 budget of P908 billion.

Still, the 2006 budget deficit is

GOV'T/ B3

INDICATORS

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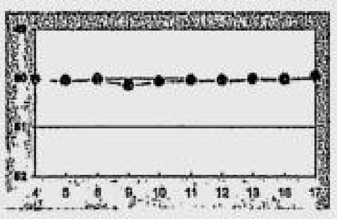

OCTOBER

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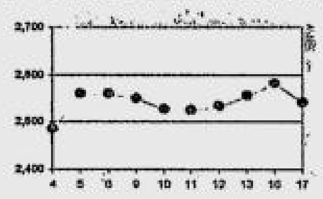


(See stock market report on Page B4)

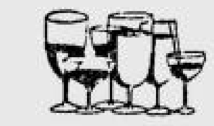
Shares close 1.58% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.58-PERCENT lower yesterday as investors took profits following a three-day rally, dealers said.

This mirrored the weak sentiment in most Asian bourses, they added, after profit takers ignored another record close on Wall Street and cashed up.

SHARES/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE



- **The** Korina Show(down) /B3
- **Ayala** sells Burger King stake /B4

Sales of pre-need plans rebound in August

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SALES OF PRE-NEED PLANS GREW 33.3 percent in August to P1.86 billion from P1.4 billion in the same month last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission reported yesterday.

Documents from the SEC showed that pension plan sales surged 61.5 percent to P1.24 bilion in August from P770.9 million a year ago, accounting for 67 percent of the month's total sales.

Sales of life plans rose a mere 3.71 percent during the period to P244.5 million from P235.8 million in August last year. Education plan sales remained weak, shrinking by 4.6 percent to P369.9 million in August from P387.6 million last year.

In terms of volume, total plans grew 16.2 percent to 27,719 in August this year from 23,859 a year ago. This was also led by the growth in sales of pension plans by 32.3 percent. The number of education plans sold fell 10.8 percent to 2,963 while life plans sold also dipped 3.3 percent to 6,577.

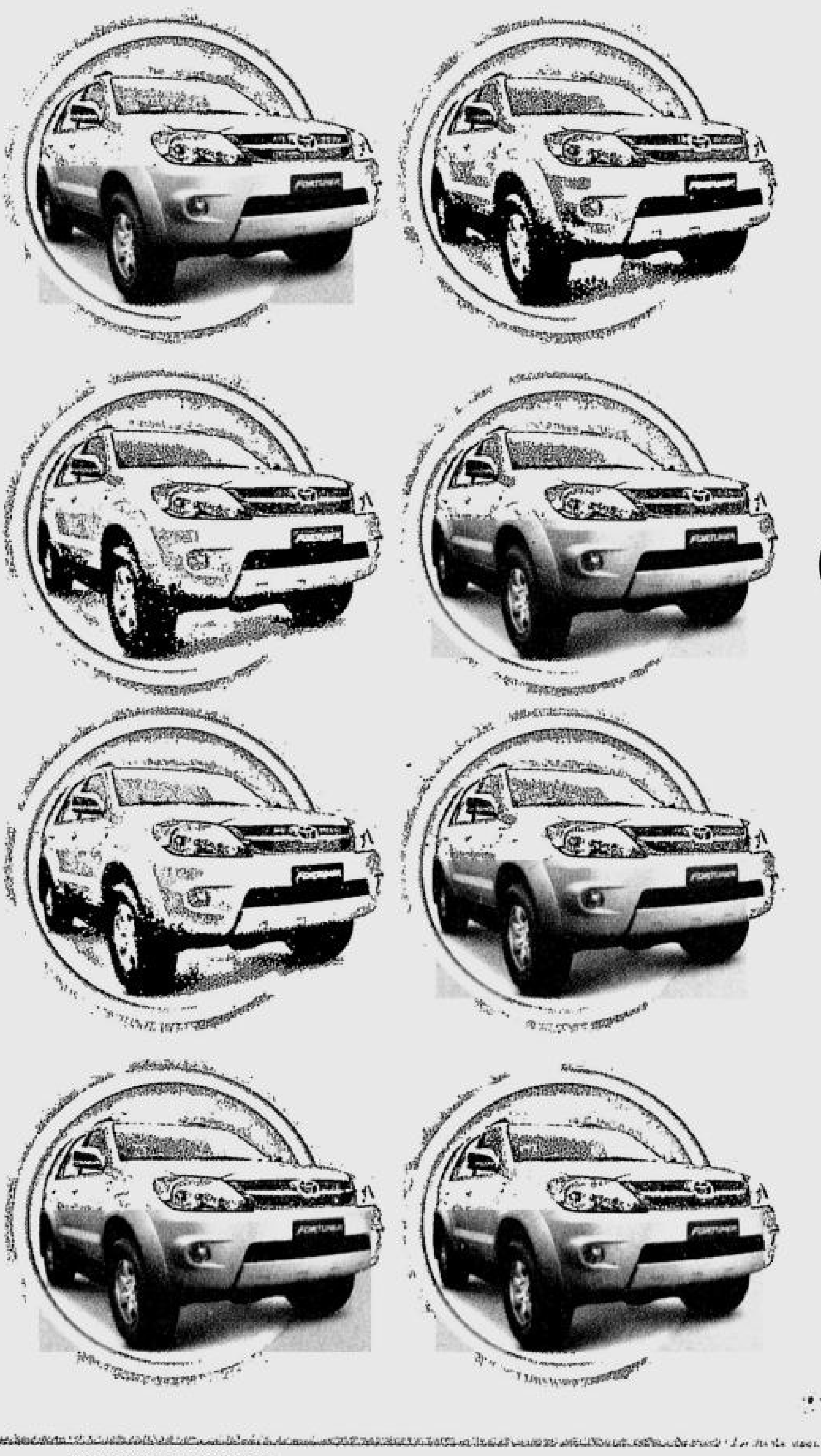
For the first eight months, total pre-need sales registered a modest growth of 3.4 percent to P15.3 billion from P14.8 billion during the same period last year. Pension plans registered stronger sales, growing 27.6 percent to P9.7 billion this year from P7.6 billion a year ago.

Education plans suffered the biggest drop in sales during the first eight months at 36 percent, or to P2.8 billion from P4.4 billion in the same period last year.

Life plan sales also slid 1.3 percent to P2.8 billion in the eight-month period.

Industry analysts attributed the resurgence in pre-need sales to the shift in investor interest away from the controversial unit investment trust funds (UITF), or open-ended trust funds invested in government securities and shares of stock.

There were huge withdrawals of investments in UITFs over fears that as much as 15 percent of the value of these instruments could be erased due to falling bond rates and share prices.



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TOYOTA moving forward

Task force holds mandate to lift RP competitiveness

Group ordered to raise country's ability to compete abroad

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG HAS ISSUED AN ORDER creating a public-private sector task force—not a council, as previously announced—that would spearhead efforts to drive up the country's competitiveness, according to the Philippine Export Confederation.

Philexport said Executive Order No. 571, which was issued last week, mandated the task force "to be on top of a national program to save the Philippines from its rank among the cellar-dwelling economies, in terms of competitiveness."

EO 571 also aims to lift the country to the top third competitive countries in four years, the group added.

The executive order allowed for the release of P10 million from the funds of the Department of Trade and Industry to activate the task force and sustain its operations.

Last week, Philexport said 14 business federations and chambers had pledged to raise funds for a planned National Competitiveness Council, which is part of the national action agenda to make it easier for firms to operate here.

The groups formalized their pledge through a "covenant of support," under which they were committed to provide logistical resources aimed at activating and helping sustain an agenda that consists of "quick wins and strategic recommendations in short-, medium- and long-term time lines."

Yesterday, Philexport said the task force would be made up of five representatives each from government and the private sector.

Government representatives would come from the departments of trade and industry, agriculture, finance and transportation and communications as well as the Commission on Higher Education.

Philexport said the representatives have not been named, but the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry had committed to provide as an "initial counterpart" people for the task force's secretariat.

"If the Presidential order is to be followed to the letter, the task force would be more powerful than the Export Development Council in terms of pushing for reforms and overseeing the execution of a rolling export development plan," Philexport said. "Directly under the Office of the President, it has been empowered to direct specific departments and agencies of government to attend to the bottlenecks and problems constraining the country's ability to compete here and abroad."

For Unilever, making a difference is what counts

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CORPORATE CITIZEN

SAYING "BE GENEROUS," MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales has appealed to fellow Roman Catholics to chip in and help build the Church of the Risen Christ, the country's first environment-friendly church.

Designed by world-renowned Filipino architect Felino Palafox Jr., solar panels will provide the building's power needs. Wind towers will take care of its ventilation system. And, among other features, it will have waterless composting toilets.

Construction of the P60-million project in the partially rehabilitated Smokey Mountain garbage dump in Tondo, Manila has been delayed for over two years due to funding problems.

The project has so far received a little over P15 million in money pledges from various individuals and groups.

In a videotaped message, Rosales asked Catholic communities here and abroad to help "make (Smokey residents') dream, their church, a reality."

Long before Rosales issued his appeal, consumer goods giant Unilever Philippines had already hooked up with the Smokey Mountain parish to do its share, according to SVD priest Benigno Beltran, the man behind the CRC project.

"Unilever has donated more than five tons of office waste, converted into building blocks at the nearby Pier 18 Material Recovery Facility (MRF)," said Beltran, fondly called "Fr. Ben" by impoverished Tondo residents he has been serving since the late 1970s.

During the project's groundbreaking rites, Unilever chair and chief executive officer Howard Belton reaffirmed the firm's commitment to make a difference in the lives of the 20,000-plus former scavengers of the infamous dumpsite.

The project can expect more waste donations from Unilever, Belton assured the cardinal.

Belton also led about 100 Unilever staff members in a visit to the nearby Pier 18, said to be the "new Smokey Mountain." The Unilever team, however, prefers to call it the "mountain of life."

Officially the temporary waste transfer station of the city of Manila, the 10-hectare property sits on an area where the Pasig River meets Manila Bay.

Waste collected from Manila's six districts are taken to Pier 18 before they are moved to the Navotas dumpsite or the sanitary landfill in Montalban, Rizal.

Pier 18 is also home to more or less 1,000 "eco-aides" or scavengers who have put up dwellings alongside several junk shops at the dumpsite.

The team's recent visit to Pier 18 was "aimed at raising awareness of Unilever managers on solid waste management—with the impact of our product packaging on the environment and our solid wastes on the landfill in mind—as well as developing an appreciation for both the economic and social relevance of environment programs," said Jike Mendoza-Dalupan, Unilever AVP for corporate relations and communications.

"Clad in full battle gear, gloves, overalls, boots and optional masks, we first listened to an inspiring talk by Fr. Ben," Dalupan said. "We were humbled by his commitment and marveled at how he has transformed Smokey Mountain into a progressive community."

Enriched with the SVD priest's passion for the environment, the group headed to its next stop—the MRF.

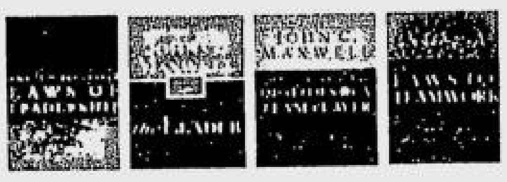
"Run by the Smokey Mountain Cooperative, the MRF collects wastes from partner offices like Unilever and private schools," according to Dalupan. "Wastes are dropped off at the MRF where they are segregated by the facility's eco-aides. Segregated wastes are then recycled, sold or composted."

"Working side by side with the eco-aides, Unilever managers dove into the

FOR UNILEVER/ B5

A SMALL boy guides Unilever workers up and around the mountain of garbage that he calls home.

CORPORATE types clad in gloves, overalls, boots and masks, go about the waste facility in Tondo, Manila sorting the trash to be recycled, sold or composted. Unilever is committed to making a difference in the lives of thousands of residents at the infamous dumpsite.



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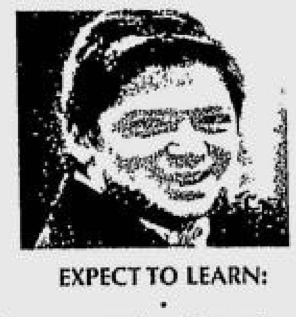

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NTC looks into unfair pricing allegations among telco firms

By Riza T. Olchondra

TWO PROMOTIONAL OFFERINGS OF Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) came under fire following a complaint from Globe Telecom Inc.

Globe claimed that the cross offerings of Smart and Piltel discriminated against other telcos.

The National Telecommunications Commission last Friday issued a cease and desist order (CDO) to the two telcos. It also set an Oct. 19 hearing for Smart and Piltel to present their side.

"We welcome the hearing because it gives us a chance to present our side," PLDT spokesperson Mon Isberto said.

The NTC also ordered both telcos to submit a written explanation within 15 days from receipt of the CDO.

"We have not received a copy of the CDO," Isberto on Monday told the INQUIRER. "The promos are ongoing, but it is our position that they are in compliance with NTC rules and regulations for off-net and on-net services."

In its cease and desist order, the regulator said the "Gaan Talk P10/3min Flat Rate," and "Gaan Text All Text P20 load" promos, open to all SMART and Piltel subscribers, allegedly violated regulations against discriminatory pricing of services between two mobile service providers.

It appears that the continued implementation of the promos off-net, or from Piltel to Smart subscribers, not only violates the policy of the commission prohibiting rate discrimination, it is likewise contrary to the directives of this commission as contained in its Oct. 5, 2006 letter, which approved respondents' promotional offering provided the same shall be available on-net only, or from Piltel to Piltel or Smart to Smart only," according to the NTC order.

Globe expectedly welcomed the CDO, saying it is the first time that such a decision was made by the NTC.

"It means the NTC is serious in curbing discriminatory practices," said Globe vice president Froilan Castelo.

In its complaint, Globe claimed that the promos were discriminatory because the implementation unduly disadvantaged other wireless networks that do not have access to Smart and Piltel networks.

Globe said Smart and Piltel introduced the promos without giving all other cellular operators the opportunity to take part in it.

"With the elimination of other carriers, this promotional scheme smacks of discrimination, as well as cutthroat competition," the Globe complaint said.

This was the third time Globe filed a complaint this year, claiming that SMART and Piltel were engaging in discriminatory practices. Two of the complaints were subsequently withdrawn.

PLDT halves prepaid call rate to ₱1

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE (PLDT) Co. has slashed by half its Pwede!Card rate for calls made between Oct. 15 to Dec. 31, in time for the holidays.

The Pwede!Card is the first reloadable PIN-based prepaid card that provides access to a wide range of voice and Internet services at affordable rates.

The Pwede!Card can be used to make NDD and IDD calls from PLDT landlines, PLDT and SMARTalk pay phones, SMART and Talk 'N Text mobile phones. The card can also be used to surf the Internet via PLDT Vibe.

The Pwede!Card used to offer P2 per local call for an unlimited number of minutes. With the new rates, a subscriber can make local calls for only P1 no matter how long the conversation lasts.

NDD calls to any point in the country was reduced from P5 to P2.50 when made between PLDT subscribers. Users calling subscribers of other networks have discounts as well at P3 from the usual P6.

For overseas calls, subscribers can reach more than 100 budget card destinations at P8 per minute. Calls to Bahrain, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Yemen and Saudi are priced at P10 per minute. Calls to other IDD destinations are priced at P15 per minute.

Surfing can also be had at P5 per hour using the Pwede!Card to go online with PLDT Vibe, saving users 92 percent.

For local, domestic and international long-distance calls, dial 10-123 and follow the recorded voice instruction. To check the credit balance, dial 10-122. To log on to the Internet, access PLDT Vibe at 10-121.

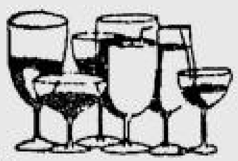
Each card sells for P30 with a preloaded value of P12 consumable within 24 hours.

It is reloadable in increments of P30, which is valid for three days, P60 for six days, P115 for 12 days, P200 for 30 days, P300 for 60 days and P500 for 60 days.

The Pwede!Card may be purchased at SMART Wireless Centers or any of the 700,000 Smart E-Load Centers nationwide. *Riza T. Olchondra*

The Korina Show(down)

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THINGS ARE MUCH WORSE BETWEEN Korina Sanchez and ABS-CBN news chief Maria Ressa than what was reported here Friday.

But an ABS-CBN official, who asked not to be identified, immediately disputed the "professional animosity" angle that had been leaked to Cocktales.

"Let us just say there are always apprehensions whenever changes are introduced," the official said.

According to the grapevine, a show-cause memo had actually been issued to the popular newscaster/talkshow host by Ressa's office and that Korina has until today to submit her answer.

Adherence to certain editorial guidelines, part of the sweeping changes introduced by Ressa since she came on board in January 2005, is being tipped as the cause of the latest tempest to hit the newsroom of the country's biggest broadcast network.

A former CNN correspondent, Ressa is chief of the "Tres Marias," the editorial nickname for the triumvirate of all-female, foreign-trained news executives that had been brought in by ABS-CBN CEO Eugenio Lopez III to bring the network's journalism up to Western standards.

The first sweep of such changes had already caused the resignation of more than 30 news and current affairs staffers last year; the latest move is apparently designed to ensure that the network's news stars toe the same line as that of the rank-and-file's.

According to the grapevine, Korina is taking Ressa's memo so seriously that she has even sought outside legal advice—Korina's stable of lawyers in the past included the Accra law firm, the same law firm that publisher/columnist Maximo Soliven also sends an SOS to for his own entanglements—to help prepare her reply.

Still, the official ABS-CBN line is that the latest editorial flare-up would be, and is now being, amicably resolved.

"I am happy to note that, after intensive consultations among the concerned parties, we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel," the ABS-CBN official said.

Saguisag's sufferance

RENE A.V. SAGUISAG, whose defense of the poor and the oppressed has catapulted him to the Senate and a Cabinet position, has surfaced to represent Ramos-era Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez in his battle to stop the Anti-Money Laundering Council from prying open an Alvarez bank account.

The Supreme Court has already overturned a Court of Appeals injunction which had stopped government bank examiners from following the Piatco money trail.

Saguisag now wants the Supreme Court to reverse itself and stop the money-laundering expedition "before all the arguments are in," since "(there may be) impermissible intrusion into (Alvarez's) basic human and constitutional right to privacy."

The same privacy argument, incidentally, was raised by Saguisag in the Senate when he cautioned his former colleagues from using Philcomsat's cancelled checks and money records as being purloined and could not thus be used against his client, Mike Arroyo's cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta.

What a change from the Marcos-era human rights lawyer, whose subversive Mabini newsletter often cited the purloined Pentagon Papers and other products of similar mischief as legitimate weapons to undermine an illegitimate regime.

What was sauce for the illegitimate Marcos regime is not sauce for the "illegitimate" GMA regime?

Money-go-round

- ICTSI wishes to clarify that it had never contributed any financial support to the Loren Legarda coffee-table book, despite the "generous appreciation" and top-billing the listed company received—along with the PLDT/Smart Group, Procter and Gamble, and Unilever—from the book editors.
- FORMER Makati Councilor Nini Licaros has rounded up a Forbes Park/high society brigade to provide food and drinks for the pro-Binay masses now surrounding City Hall in support of their beleaguered mayor.

Heard through the grapevine

NO LESS than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Unilab's Joy Campos, SM's Tessie Sy and Angela Ho, wife of Macau casino tycoon Stanley Ho, head the list of VIP *ninongs* and *ninangs* for tomorrow's wedding of international trade consultant Roberto Arenas to gifted-children school owner Christine Ochoa. If the Arenas name rings a bell, it is because he is of a certain Pangalatoc-UK provenance.

(Email: cocktales@cocktales.biz)

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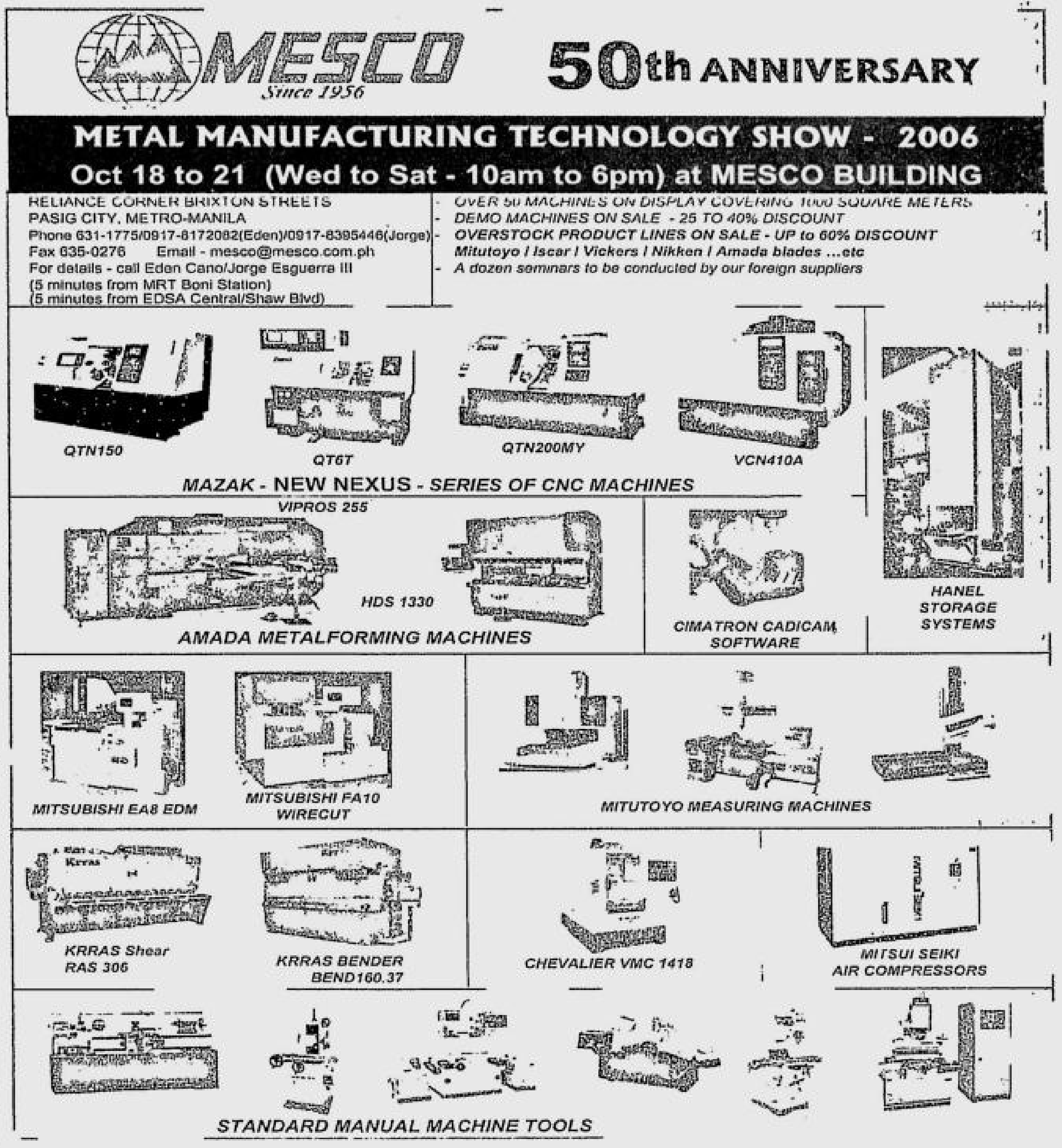
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Gov't swings to a budget deficit in Sept.

From page B1

widely expected to be less than the government's goal of P125 billion, or 2.1-percent of gross domestic product, due to spending cuts so far this year.

Earlier this month, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said he would be satisfied with a 2006 deficit of P100-P110 billion.

"September is one of the months that we have encountered some challenges," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters.

September revenues of P73.6 billion were P3.1 billion under target, but up 19.1 percent from a year earlier, Teves said. Expenditures were P600 million above the target, partly due to a foreign debt swap offer.

The Arroyo administration issued about $1.2 billion worth of longer-dated sovereign bonds last month to retire about $1 billion worth of mainly short-to-medium term bonds.

On the revenue side of the accounts, the two main tax agencies both recorded shortfalls in collections, but this was compensated by strong revenues from other agencies.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, accounting for two-thirds of revenue, missed its target for the first nine months by P11.7 billion partly due to lower tax revenues from bonds as the government cut domestic debt issues.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag attributed the shortfall partly to lower interest rates and reduced issuance of treasury bills and bonds, which cut the government's collection of taxes on earnings from government securities.

The government expects a budget deficit of P63 billion next year, or 0.9 percent of GDP, before it ends nearly a decade of fiscal shortfalls in 2008. *With a report from Reuters*

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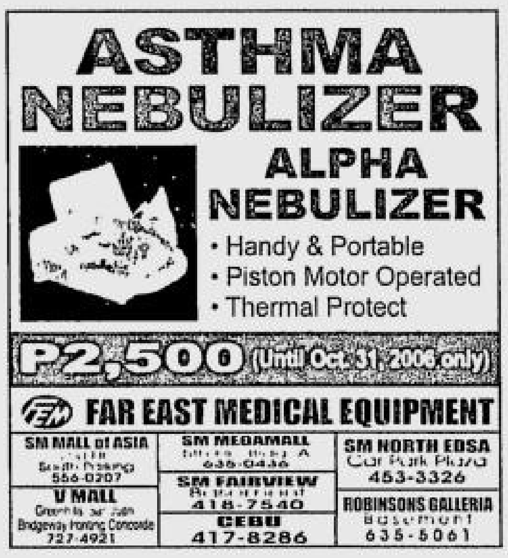
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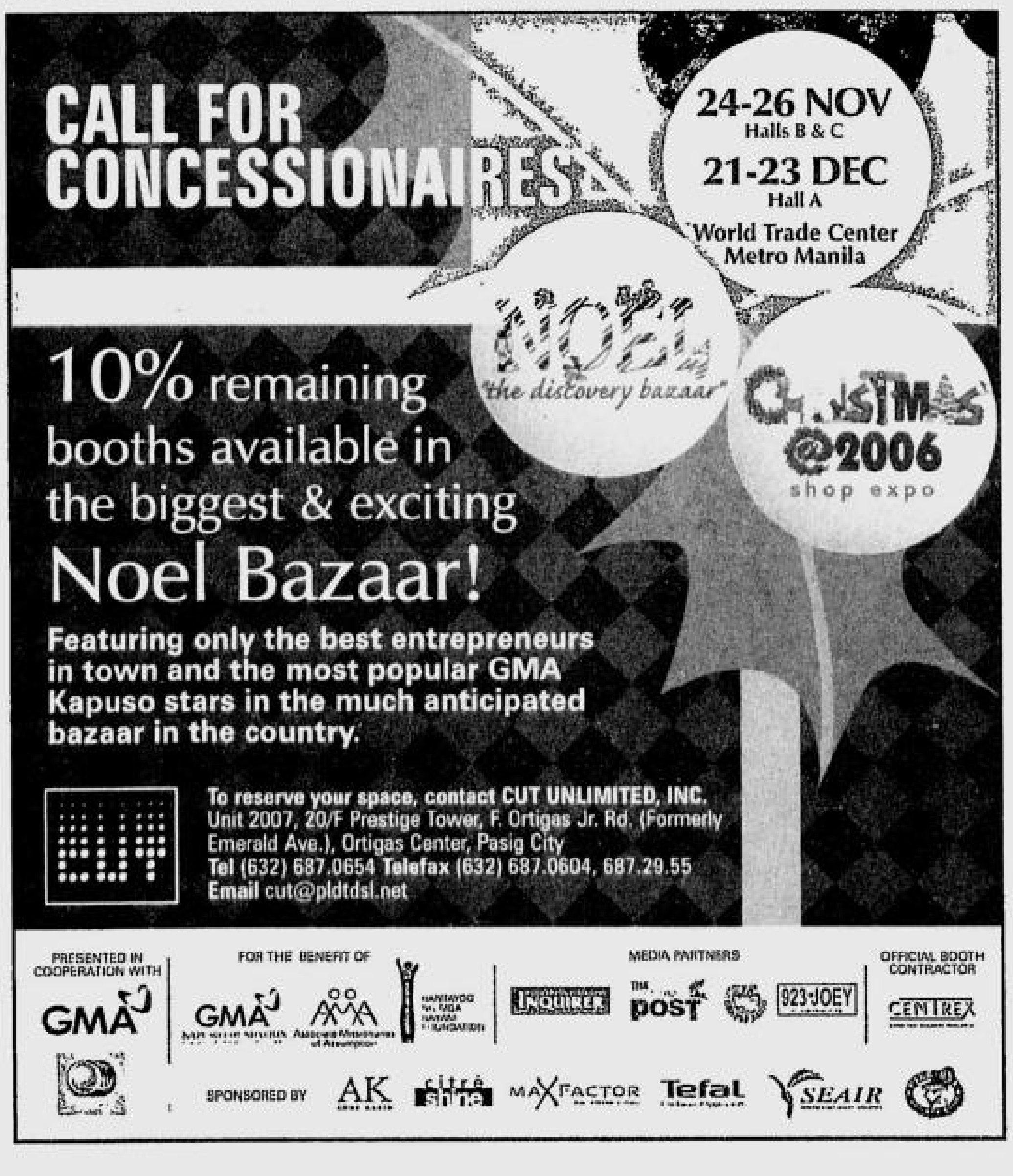
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Presenting the Winners of the Asian CSR Awards 2006

528 delegates from 24 countries representing 380 organizations from all over Asia witnessed the celebrations of the Asian CSR Awards held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manila on September 26, 2006. 98 organizations from 14 countries vied for CSR Awards in five categories. Fifteen organizations from six countries won.

ASIAN FORUM 2006

Congratulations to the Winners!

Category: Environmental Excellence
Winner: 3M, Asia-Pacific Facilities Prove Pollution Prevention Pays (3P) in 2005
Special Awardee: Unilever Philippines, Project Eliminate

Category: Support and Improvement of Education
Winner: Globe Telecom (in cooperation with Ayala Foundation, Chikka Asia, Department of Education, International Youth Foundation, Nokia, Pearson Foundation, PMSI Dream Cable, SEAMEO Innotech, and UNDP), Text2Teach
Special Awardees: GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, Knowledge based therapeutic recreation and HIV/AIDS awareness
Unilever Pakistan, Private Public Partnership - The Unilever Government Elementary School
Coca-Cola Foundation, Little Red Schoolhouse Project

Category: Poverty Alleviation
Winner: Pier One Seaman's Dormitory, Pier One Seaman's Dormitory
Special Awardees: The Coca-Cola Company, Migrant Farmer Training & Employment Program
Ballarpur Industries Limited, Empowering Communities through Micro Entrepreneurship

Category: Best Workplace Practices
Winner: Manila Water, Developing the Modern Water System Manager
Special Awardees: IBM Philippines, Inc., Embracing Diversity@IBM
Chowking Foods Corporation, Go for Gold Program

Category: Concern for Health
Winner: Engro Chemicals Pakistan Limited, Project HOPE
Special Awardees: The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola's "Health Journey" in Rural China
Jollibee Foods Corporation, Training & Employment of Deaf and Hearing - Impaired Persons in Jollibee Stores
Thai Life Insurance Co., Ltd., One's Gift of Life to Many Project

Lifetime Achievement Award: Senator Mechai Viravaidya, Founder & Chair, Population and Community Development Association - Thailand

Members of the Judging Committees:
Mohiuddin Babar, Nature Alliance' Linkcom Business Solutions (Bangladesh) • Mallen Baker, Business in the Community (United Kingdom)- Chair of Environmental Excellence • Dawn Emling, Credit Suisse (Hong Kong) • Rufina Fernandes, NASSCOM Foundation (India) • Tapati Ghosh, Centre for Social Markets (India) • Chrysanti Hasibuan-Sedyono, PPM Institute of Management (Indonesia)- Chair of Support and Improvement of Education • Ngo T. Minh Huong, Center for Development and Integration (Vietnam) • Michael Kelly, KPMG (United Kingdom)- Chair of Best Workplace Practices • Yanti Koestoer, Indonesia Business Links • Achsan Permas, PPM Institute of Management (Indonesia) • S. Prakash Sethi, International Center for Corporate Accountability (USA)- Chair of Concern for Health • Judie Thorpe, SustainAbility Ltd. (United Kingdom)- Chair of Poverty Alleviation • Rory Tolentino, Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (Philippines) • Ambreen Waheed, Responsible Business Initiative (Pakistan)

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Ayala sells Burger King stake

Lina, Pangilinan named as buyers

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP. HAS SOLD ITS ENTIRE STAKE in Burger King to a group led by former Customs Commissioner Alberto V. Lina.

Ayala said in a disclosure yesterday that it sold its majority stake in Burger King franchise owner PFN Holdings Corp. to BK Titans Inc., identified with courier magnate Lina and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan.

PFN owns Perf Restaurants Inc., the Philippine franchisee of BK Asiapac Pte. Ltd., which is the mother firm of all Burger King franchises in Asia Pacific.

INQUIRER sources estimated that the deal brought in P100 million to Ayala, equivalent to Burger King's current capital.

Ayala did not verify citing confidentiality agreements.

"The objective of the new group is to turn around the business and to make Burger King one of the world's best fast food chains," Lina, who holds a majority stake in BK Titans, told INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In a statement, Ayala said the sale of PFN was consistent with its strategy to focus on its core businesses, which include real estate, financial services, telecommunications, utilities and electronics.

Ayala exited the food business in 2001 when it sold processed meats producer Pure Foods Corp. to food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. The Burger King business was not part of that transaction.

Since that time, Ayala and BK Asiapac have looked to place the business, which has been hounded by poor sales, in the hands of an ideal owner who is committed to the quick service restaurant industry.

BKT is a company organized by Lina, who also chairs Airfreight 2100 Inc., sole licensee of Federal Express Corp. in the Philippines since 1985.

Other co-investees are Airfreight president Angelito Alvarez, Philippine Basketball Association chair Victorico Vargas and Tanduay Holdings president Wilson Young.

With their track records in branded consumer products, these individuals share a common vision for the Burger King franchise.

BKT said it understands and appreciates the opportunities available to Perf, the quality and dedication of its employees, and the support of its business partners.

It also fully supports the strategy of BK Asiapac and its programs to make the Burger King a leader in the market.

For its part, BK Asia-Pacific welcomes the entry of BKT.

"We look forward to working together with BKT towards strengthening the Burger King franchise in the Philippines . We are confident that the strength of the Burger King brand, world renowned for our flame-broiled Whopper, combined with the passion and commitment of the principals of BKT will provide the foundation for future growth," said Peter Tan, president, BK Asiapac.

Burger King operates more than 11,000 restaurants in all 50 states of the United States and in more than 65 countries and US territories worldwide.

ROCKWELL Land Corp. president Nestor J. Padilla (left) and Sta. Elena Properties executive vice president Bienvenido Tantoco Jr. seal the deal for a new township project called Rockwell Sta. Elena with a handshake. The joint venture agreement involves the redevelopment of the 260-hectare Sta. Elena golf course community in Laguna into an integrated residential golf and leisure community.

T-bond rate dips to 7.28%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE RATE OF THE FIVE-YEAR TREASURY bonds dipped by over a percentage point yesterday as the market cheered news that the government managed to rein in the budget deficit as of September.

The five-year bonds fetched an average rate of 7.28 percent in yesterday's auction held at the Bureau of the Treasury.

The new rate was 114.4 basis points lower than the 8.424 percent recorded in August.

The Treasury's auction committee accepted P8 billion worth of bids out of P29.89 billion in offers.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a press briefing on the government's fiscal performance for September that both the foreign and local bond markets were putting low risk premiums on the government's debt offerings amid confidence in the country's ability to pay its debts.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the Bureau of the Treasury, yesterday reported that the government's nine-month budget deficit this year stood at P50.4 billion, well below the ceiling of P122 billion.

In September alone, however, the government breached its P12.6-billion budget deficit ceiling for the month and recorded a budget gap of P16.2 billion.

The higher-than-programmed deficit in September is due to the shortfall in revenue collection and deliberate efforts to increase expenditures to compensate for the sluggish spending in the previous months.

Investment bank Barclays earlier projected that the Philippines might get an improved credit outlook by the end of the year because of its fiscal performance.

Cruz said, however, that the government was focusing on achieving its fiscal targets, rather than going for an upgrade in its credit standing.

He said interest rates on Philippine-issued bonds had more bearing on the government's fiscal standing because it reduces its cost of borrowings.

P80-M TRANSACTION

Lim Asia buys into Fil-Estate

INVESTMENT FUND LIM ASIA ALTERNATIVE Real Estate Fund and Lim Asia Arbitrage Fund have agreed to buy P80 million worth of stocks in real estate developer Fil-Estate Land Inc.

In a disclosure, Fil-Estate Land said Lim Asia Real Estate Fund and Lim Asia Arbitrage have agreed to subscribe to 80 million Fil-Estate shares at P1 each.

Fil-Estate said it would also issue P136 million in warrants to the Lim Group.

The transaction will pave the way for the finalization of a $12-5 million construction loan and an additional $5-million convertible bond issue currently under negotiation, Fil-Estate told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Fil Estate has filed an application with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the approval of the $12.5-million loan.

The proceeds of the transactions will be used to accelerate the development of Fil-Estate Land's various tourism oriented projects. These include Harbourtown in Nasugbu, a golf resort in Laurel, Batangas; Fairways and Bluewaters in Boracay, Camp John Hay in Baguio City, and a residential and commercial complex in Quezon City.

Fil-Estate Land through the years has embarked on a massive land banking.

"With the infusion of foreign funds we will fast-track the development of our landbank which has masterplans," a top Fil-Estate official said in a statement.

"We will invite a select group of local and foreign developers to co-develop and become locators within the masterplan as envisioned by Fil-Estate Land," the official added.

Fil-Estate was one of the most aggressive real estate development companies in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

It fell into hard times when the real estate market went bust following the Asian currency crisis of 1997. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Vulcan plans venture with Phelps Dodge

By Christine A. Gaylican

LISTED MINING FIRM VULCAN INDUSTRIAL and Mining Corp. is looking at a possible joint venture with Phelps Dodge Exploration Corp., reputedly one of the world's leading copper and gold producers.

Vulcan told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had signed a confidentiality agreement with Phelps Dodge Exploration Corp.-Philippine branch for the latter to review its mining data for a possible joint venture.

Company executive vice president and general manager Patrick V. Caoile said in an interview that Phelps Dodge would conduct a due diligence on the company to verify the potential of Vulcan's mining claims.

Caoile noted that Phelps had long been interested in Vulcan's mining property in Isabela, a copper-gold mineral claim that it now explores with Marian Mineral Exploration Corp.

The copper-gold mineral exploration project in Cordon, Isabela, is in its advanced stages.

This is aside from the Vulcan's Pantuyan gold project in Panaon Island in Southern Leyte that the company was also exploring.

"The future partnership could be good to both the company and the country especially in terms of investments. Phelps Dodge is one of the biggest copper-gold producers in the world," said Caoile.

Vulcan Industrial & Mining Corp. (VUL) is engaged mainly in oil and mineral exploration projects.

One of its successful ventures is the concrete aggregate project in Rodriguez, Rizal, which was spun off into a joint venture company called Vulcan Materials Corp. (VMC).

VMC is on its 10th year of rock aggregate quarrying, crushing and marketing.

Vulcan reported to the PSE that the company earned a consolidated gross revenue of P27.87 million as of June 30, up from P21.30 in the same period last year.

Metrobank to sell P11B in bad assets

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST CO., THE country's largest bank, plans to sell at least P11 billion in soured assets this year, Metrobank chair Antonio S. Abacan Jr. said following the signing of First Metro Investment Corp. with the University of Asia and the Pacific late Monday.

Abacan said in a briefing following the signing of an agreement between First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific that Metrobank planned to sell P6 to P7 billion in bad loans this year and some P4 billion in idle property to interested distressed asset investors.

Metrobank has scheduled a bidding this month to get rid of its bad loans.

As of June 30, Metrobank had P22.9 billion in non-performing loans, down from P23.8 billion last year.

Real estate and other property, on the other hand, stood at P34 billion as of June 30.

Aside from these idle assets, Metrobank is also in talks with investors from Malaysia and Singapore for possible joint development of about P5 billion worth of property in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and Laguna.

This is line with a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ruling allowing banks to undertake joint venture developments to hasten the sale of idle property.

In 2005, the bank sold P2.2 billion in NPLs to Avenue Capital Group and P7 billion more in NPLs to Hypo-und Vereins Bank (HVB) AG of Germany.

Reflecting the bank's increasing strength, Abacan said the bank's capital adequacy ratio, or its capital relative to risky assets, will expand to 20 percent from 14 to 16 percent this year as a result of its successful share offering, which raised $132 million or roughly P6.6 billion in new capital.

This is in preparation for stringent capital requirements under Basel II, the second accord that represents proposals by bank supervisors and central bankers from 13 countries making up the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

UBS AG chief representative Lauro Baja III said in a briefing yesterday that Metrobank's international share offer was the first transaction to be completed overnight.

The shares were snapped up even without an international roadshow, reflecting the company's track record in the investment community.

UBS Investment Bank is the sole international underwriter of Metrobank's share offering. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 16, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	12,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40	40.5	39.5	40.5	683,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55	55.5	2,431,500
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	4,320
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	5,430,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	66	66	65.5	66	89,100
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	12,800
Phil. Savings Bank	43	44	43	44	3,500
Security Bank Corp.	54	54.5	54	54.5	86,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	45.5	45	45	119,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.4	4.45	1,001,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1585	1580	1580	2,040
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	144,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1965	1965	1965	1965	440
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	3,998,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	51	51	51	51	150,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	50	50.5	143,400
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	25.5	25.5	193,500
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	31.5	32	800,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	499,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4.05	3,182,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	450,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.02	1	1	470,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	174,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	25,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	593,800
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	787,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	920,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	3,350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66	65.5	66	78,000
San Miguel Corp. B	75.5	75.5	73.5	74	238,500
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	18.5	18.75	970,100
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.37	25,440,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.42	1,299,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.8	490,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,135,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.06	2.1	1.94	2.02	466,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.55	4.7	4.55	4.7	332,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.64	0.64	202,170,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.155	0.165	0.15	0.155	29,960,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	487.5	487.5	477.5	480	502,700
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	300,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	10,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.44	2.44	839,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	3,720,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	550,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	111,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.38	13,389,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.35	520,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	320,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	1,498,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.42	609,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7	7	559,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	150,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.98	1.9	1.96	120,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.42	3,911,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	610,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.69	1,930,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,280,000
SM Investments Corp.	262.5	265	260	262.5	922,360
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	221,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	550,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	4,634,200
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	460,000
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	10,118,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.28	396,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	1,600,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.42	1.54	1.42	1.52	729,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,060,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	180,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	11,680,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.055	13,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	16,129,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	21,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	3,920,000
City & Land Developers	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.9	0.96	0.87	0.87	23,270,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.96	1.98	59,833,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	513,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.33	0.33	21,810,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,700,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	6,069,900
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	980,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.4	7,758,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	90,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	68,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	320,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	6.6	6.9	6.4	6.5	164,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.54	25,579,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1120	1120	1085	1100	49,470
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.95	5	4.8	4.85	2,423,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2245	2245	2195	2195	348,240
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.06	1.98	2	1,076,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	5,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.22	1.22	792,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	10,000
Philweb Corp	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	277,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	131,900
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	270,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	670,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.1	2.14	2.06	2.14	55,547,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.33	2,130,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	11,910,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc	2.95	3	2.9	3	1,352,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2.02	1.96	1.96	356,000
Paxys Inc.	12	13	12	13	888,300
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	70,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	7	7.2	6.8	6.9	4,319,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.9	2,217,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	58,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.1	8	8	626,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.9	55,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	4,540,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	7,480,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	88,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	7,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	84,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.85	3.9	3.75	3.8	7,266,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	110,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.59	340,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	950,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	16,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.98	1	0.98	1	1,780,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	119,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.5	10.5	9.5	10	468,000

CURRENCIES

October 17, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797894	1.000000	50.0050
Japan	Yen	0.006701	0.008398	0.4199
United Kingdom	Pound	1.485039	1.861200	93.0693
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102517	0.128485	6.4249
Switzerland	Franc	0.628065	0.787154	39.3616
Canada	Dollar	0.701445	0.879121	43.9604
Singapore	Dollar	0.503911	0.631552	31.5808
Australia	Dollar	0.600959	0.753182	37.6629
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.116541	2.652661	132.6463
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212760	0.266652	13.3339
Brunei	Dollar	0.502325	0.629564	31.4813
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021334	0.026738	1.3370
UAE	Dirham	0.217250	0.272279	13.6153
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.253300	62.6713
Argentina	Peso	0.257178	0.322321	16.1177
Brazil	Real	0.374422	0.469263	23.4655
Denmark	Kroner	0.134161	0.168144	8.4080
India	Rupee	0.017594	0.022051	1.1027
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216702	0.271592	13.5810
Mexico	New Peso	0.073583	0.092221	4.6115
New Zealand	Dollar	0.524757	0.657678	32.8872
South Africa	Rand	0.106129	0.133011	6.6512
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001047	0.0524
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024015	0.030098	1.5051

Shares close . . .

From page B1

The composite index fell 40.72 points to 2,543.48 after trading between 2,543.48 and 2,584.20. The all-share index fell 17.71 points to 1,565.96.

Losers led gainers 50 to 36 with 56 unchanged. Turnover totaled 1.2 billion shares worth P2.64 billion.

"The market was overbought after three days of gains, and it remains in consolidation mode," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Despite improving economic fundamentals, he said the much-awaited breakout of the market from this tight consolidation range might not happen until fresh catalysts emerge.

He said news that the government's budget swung back into a deficit in September after posting surpluses in four of the previous five months was expected. *(See story on Page B1.)*

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. retreated P55 to close at P2,195. Conglomerate Ayala Corp. fell P12.50 to P480. *AFP*

Trust fund for exporters' VAT refund claims planned

Move opposed for fear of delays in releases

By Michelle V. Remo

TEVES

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE plans to put up a trust fund, proposed to be managed by a government financial institution, that will help ensure prompt release of value-added tax (VAT) refunds for exporters.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said this would address the clamor against an imminent move in Congress to lift the automatic granting of the zero-VAT privilege of exporters.

Currently, exporters are automatically imposed a zero VAT every time they import goods that were used as inputs for their export products. The privilege is an incentive extended to them by the government for their dollar contributions to the country.

The fiscal incentives rationalization bill, now pending in the Senate, requires exporters to pay VAT on imports and claim refunds later after proving that the imported materials were indeed used as inputs for their export products.

The withdrawal of the automatic zero-VAT privilege is hoped to address suspected fraudulent claims of the incentive, which results in huge government revenue losses.

Exporters, including members of the Semiconductors and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), are strongly opposing the planned trust fund, as they expect delays in the release of tax refunds.

Teves said putting up a trust fund would ensure that refunds would be released on time. He said the government targets to release the refunds within 30 days or less after filing of the claims.

"As long as there is a mechanism in place to ensure (prompt) disbursement, then exporter would not be burdened," Teves told reporters yesterday following the announcement of the national government's fiscal performance for September.

The DOF plans to to tap either Land Bank of the Philippines or Development Bank of the Philippines to serve trust fund manager.

Under the DOF proposal, Teves said, the amount of VAT payments made by exporters would automatically be placed in the trust fund.

He said another solution to the exporters' concern was for government financial institutions to advance VAT refunds in times when the government's budget could not accommodate such claims.

The fiscal incentives rationalization bill is one of the revenue-enhancement measures being pushed by the DOF to help plug tax leaks.

The government estimated that it was losing about P300 billion in potential revenue yearly due to the granting of fiscal incentives.

A DOF-commissioned study earlier showed that 83 percent of the incentives granted by the Board of Investments (BOI) were redundant, which meant that the recipient-businesses would have invested in the country with or without the tax and duty perk.

FMIC considers putting up Vietnam unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORP, THE INvestment banking arm of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., is planning to set up shop in Vietnam, said FMIC president Francisco Sebastian.

"The Vietnamese economy is moving very well. We are exploring the possibility of setting up investment banking operations there but we are studying the restrictions," Sebastian said.

Vietnam's economy has grown by an average of 7 to 9 percent in terms of gross domestic product over the last few years, upstaging the Philippine economy's 5 percent.

University of Asia and Pacific senior vice president Bernardo Villegas said it would come as no surprise if Filipino managers would be absorbed in Asian countries such as Vietnam in 5 to 10 years due to increasing demand for their expertise.

To further deepen the Philippine capital market, FMIC has partnered with UA&P to set-up the FMIC and UA&P Capital Markets Research Center.

The FMIC and UA&P Capital Markets Research Center was created to conduct continuous and in-depth research on the Philippine capital markets. The center will churn out monthly and annual reports. It will also conduct regular investment briefings and publish a comprehensive newsletter on developments in and prospects of capital markets.

These activities are in line with both FMIC's commitment to be a prime mover in the development of the Philippine capital markets as well as UA&P's mandate of economic research and communications.

For Unilever …

From page B2

garbage, separating paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, even biodegradable remnants," she recalled. "It was good to see how much of Unilever's packaging, as well as that of our competitors, were collected. It's also good to see how waste segregation helps the community lessen the waste load that is dumped into the landfills."

The group also met the women of Smokey Mountain who have been "trained in creating beautiful bags out of old newspapers and magazines which are sold mainly to foreign markets."

"This livelihood activity enables them to work at home while taking care of the household," said Dalupan. "Some of us gave the folding and weaving of newspapers a try. I have a strong feeling these are now part of the 'rejects' allocation."

The group's third and last stop was Pier 18.

"We call it the Mountain of Life because a number of people depend on it for survival," Dalupan told the INQUIRER. "The trek was clearly an eye opener for most of us, seeing first-hand the squalid conditions of their homes made to stand on top of garbage. There, children walked around naked and barefoot, while we walked in the safety and comfort of our boots. We watched as scavengers scrambled for the arriving dump trucks, not knowing whether to feel sorry for them or feel sorry for ourselves as we groped for answers to explain such poverty in our midst."

The weekend initiative complemented "Project Eliminate," the firm's own solid waste management project in its Paco plant, said Chito Macapagal, Unilever general manager for corporate development.

"In Unilever, we make sure that our operations have the minimum possible effects on the environment. Our factory and offices maintain the highest standards, ensuring that the plant does not pollute the air or the water. We have also reduced solid waste by 90 percent. But in 2003, we found out we're still responsible for 1,200 tons of landfill. Not only was this bad for the environment, but costly, too," Macapagal pointed out.

So Unilever created Project Eliminate, he said.

"Through Total Productive Maintenance or TPM, we're able to reduce waste by 80 percent.

In March 2005, Unilever's goal to reduce by 75 percent the cost associated with its "No solid waste landfill" was achieved.

"We did it through reduction at source and optimization of the recycling processes," Macapagal said.

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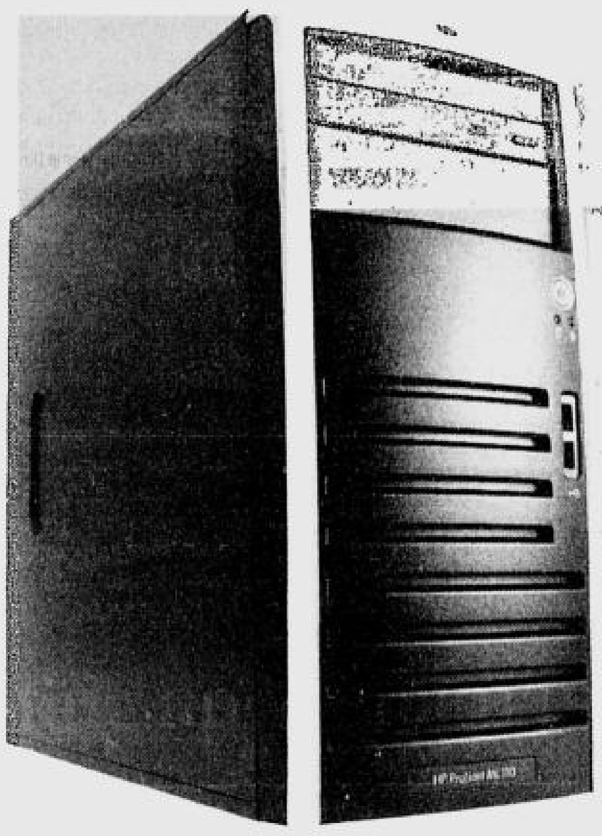

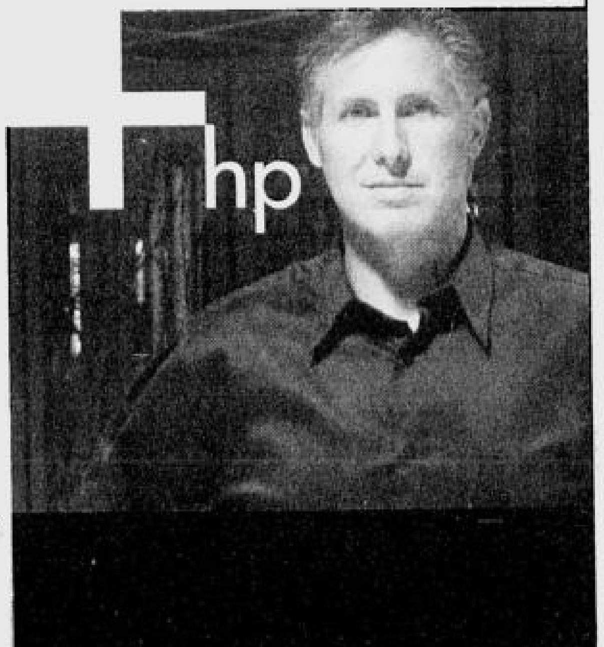

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E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
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Who should insure your vehicle?

The big fight over Compulsory Third Party Liability insurance

By Junep Ocampo
Contributor

WHO IS THE BEST party to insure your vehicle? This is the question being deliberated right now by the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) as two opposing forces lobby for the multibillion business of Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance for motor vehicles.

The DOTC, being the department directly on top of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), is studying the proposals presented by the 94-member Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira) and the government pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), incidentally, also a member of Pira.

Both parties have their own solution to end the alleged rampant selling of fake CTPLs that not only defrauds hapless accident victims but also denies the government of hundreds of millions in taxes each year.

All motor vehicle owners are familiar with the CTPL. It's the folded piece of paper that they buy from people or "fixers" in the compound of the LTO whenever they renew the registration of their vehicles. They are mandatory and normally cost an average of P500 for cars and P180 for tricycles.

The CTPL's intent is noble: It seeks to protect a vehicle owner from damages that his car might cause to "third parties" who could be people or their properties in case of accidents. If a victim dies, he would get P50,000 from the insurance company that issued the CTPL.

That is, if the CTPL is genuine.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, in a privileged speech a couple of months ago, revealed a major discrepancy in the number of CTPLs actually sold and CTPLs declared by insurance companies. He pointed out that insurance companies have reported premiums amounting to only P1.3 billion, when he said that if we count all 4.3 million vehicles registered with the LTO last year, the premiums should be in the vicinity of P2.5 billion.

Enrile noted that the missing premiums could only come from fake CTPLs that fixers sold at the LTO. And he believes these fixers must have earned billions since the CTPL insurance was made mandatory in the early '80s.

GSIS proposal

The GSIS, being the sole insurer of government vehicles, is one of the major companies issuing CTPL policies.

Its proposal is to handle the entire CTPL business—including that of the private sector—through a service agreement with the LTO.

The proposal is a one-stop shop wherein vehicle owners would pay all LTO registration fees, including the CTPL insurance fee, at the LTO, with a live data exchange between the GSIS and the LTO ensuring consolidation of payments at both ends.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, said their scheme seeks to plug the revenue loss of government due to fake CTPL insurance. He also said their proposal would speed up the processing of vehicle registrations since everything would be done online.

"And I believe that since DOTC is government, it would give the business to GSIS which is also government," he told this writer during an informal chat before a karting race in Cebu last month.

Not too simple

However, the insurance industry has branded the seemingly "very simple" solution of GSIS as "complex" and "illegal."

Ramon Y. Dimacali, chair of Pira, said the GSIS solution only adds a new task to the already overburdened LTO personnel.

"The LTO is already overburdened with registration, *idadagdag mo pa yung pangongolekta ng insurance* (you'll even add insurance collection. The insurance business should be left to insurance companies and it is the job of the Insurance Commission to make sure that all policies are genuine," he said.

He added that turning the LTO into an "insurance agent" is prohibited under Section 387 of the Insurance Code of the Philippines. "The GSIS is only allowed under Presidential Decree 245 to engage in private insurance in times of crisis and only when doing so will not diminish the earnings of private insurance companies," he said.

Dimacali stressed that what the GSIS is proposing is a monopoly by government of a business that at present employs 20,000 private individuals. "If you give CTPL exclusively to GSIS, you take away the jobs of 20,000 people. We believe President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo would not want that since it runs against her 'Go Negosyo' campaign," he said.

Accident victims, according to Dimacali, would have a hard time having their claims processed under the GSIS proposal.

"In CTPLs, you normally have more than one claimant in an accident. The industry right now has thousands of offices and 20,000 agents who are ready to serve them while the GSIS has only 50 offices," he said.

Insurance industry offer

In collaboration with the Insurance Commission, Pira has come up with the Compulsory Insurance Processing Center Corp. (CIPCC) that will authenticate all CTPL policies and make sure all taxes are remitted to the government.

CIPCC will be owned equally by the 94 member-companies of Pira and will be supervised by the Insurance Commission. It is anchored on the "open-market, level-playing-field" system with the GSIS, being a Pira member, as one those who will own the system.

CIPCC is patterned after the Bankers Association of the Philippines' Philippine Clearing House Corp. that clears all checks. But unlike PCHC which takes three banking days to clear a check, CIPCC needs only a maximum of 15 minutes to process a CTPL policy and there is no need to go to the bank.

"Once a sale is made, the insurance agent will go to CIPCC payment center inside the LTO compound and CIPCC will check if the insurer is legitimate and if the right premium is made. Then the system will forward the information to the Insurance Commission and the IC, after checking every thing, will forward the info to the LTO. *Hindi kailangan pumunta sa bangko* (Going to the bank is not needed," Dimacali said.

As CIPCC processes every CTPL policy, it automatically debits the taxes from the money which insurance companies have "parked" into the system. "This way, the government knows in real time how much taxes are being generated," Dimacali pointed out.

CIPCC's system has been ready for months now and the only thing it needs to start working is to be connected to the LTO vehicle records. A Build-Operate-and-Transfer project, CIPCC will even pay the LTO whenever it taps into its system.

Dimacali appealed to President Arroyo to give the whole insurance industry a chance to prove that it could once and for all fix the CTPL problem. He said time is of the essence because based on Senator Enrile's calculations, some P1.5 million in taxes are lost every day that fake CTPL policies are sold.

"Please give us a chance, Madam President. We're only asking for two years. If we fail, then by all means get rid of all the insurance companies and take over the business. We guarantee that this would work," he said.

The many faces of BMW 5-Series

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE BMW 5-SERIES IS EASY TO understand; its concept and market position, obvious and clear. Slotting in comfortably between the athletic 3-Series and the luxury-laden 7-Series, this full on executive is a platform that allows owners to enjoy both tackling the road and the eventual arrival at the destination. The BMW marketing suits have an easy job; if that first paragraph sounds at all like a press release, it is because the 5-Series is really all that and more—on paper at least.

In reality, there are a couple of hitches that must be dealt with. Styling is a point of contention, the bold flame-like body work of the current design era at BMW is most evident in this model. People who love or hate this car are either captivated or dismayed by the exaggerated lines that make up the shapes and shadows of this car.

The complete package

In larger engine variants, like the able single slug 530d and the awesome 535d twin turbo models, these cars are quite the complete package. Torque more linked with large displacement V8's, more often than not, wins the day convincing even some derisive critics that substance is more critical than style. That is if, ladies and gentlemen, one is able to have one of the Holy Grail big engines.

What of those who must contend with the less frenetic 520d? Can the two-liter, 4-cylinder common rail, turbocharged oil-burning lump be enough for such a physically substantial vehicle? More associated with the smaller 3-Series and the petite 1-Series, this is an engine that gives these lighter cars a new school turbo diesel punch that make one question the performance edge of gasoline models.

I had my doubts really, as I pondered test driving this car, the undeniable runt of the current 5-Series lineup. I'll cut the flowery text now and say my piece once and for all.

113 km on trip meter

In my first day of driving the 520d, a car that I was worried would not be able to perform in the same mold as its better endowed brethren; I put a total of 113 km on the trip meter. The surprise and delight I got from this package cannot be summed up better than the single day mileage I racked up. I took this test unit everywhere, making every excuse to use it for work and errands, just so I could drive it more.

To be honest, the 520d lacks the top-end ballistics one would expect from a vehicle of this price and caliber. The 260 kph speed limit set on the computer, accessed via the I-drive click-wheel thingy, actually made me laugh; 200 kph seems more realistic and even that would probably need a long, empty stretch to achieve—over time, on a downhill section, with a tailwind.

What this car has enough of and what really makes it fun to drive in real world conditions is the torque or pull that is available—the key to my pleasant experience with this car. In a city where speeds over a hundred are achieved rarely and often in a dodgy manner, the 520d does very well.

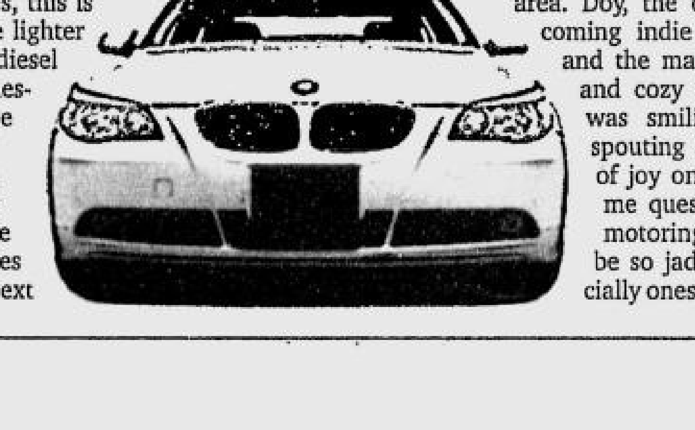
In the 30- to 100-kph performance envelope, this automobile can be made to dogfight with smaller, lighter opponents. Chalk this performance up to the chassis balance and black box traction control software that one expects from BMWs these days. I really don't want to use the word "nimble" or "quick" to describe this car, but in the hands of the able, it can made to tango in traffic with grace.

BMW with small engine

Then there is the issue of arrival and being seen in this car. Fine, the propeller emblem and signature kidney grill treatment ensure that everyone knows you are emerging from the cockpit of a pricey piece of machinery. But there are still those who would snicker at the fact that you are driving a BMW with a small engine.

Case in point, while driving around the Makati CBD, 3-Series owners smirk when they pull up next to you at stoplights and chauffeurs in their 530d's look at you knowing that you've got at least a liter less of displacement as their boss's company car does.

On the other end of the spectrum, I took a first-time Bimmer rider for a spin around the Tomas Morato area. Doy, the drummer of up and coming indie band, Bagetsafonik and the man behind the quaint and cozy Seventy Seven Café was smiling incessantly and spouting expletives. The look of joy on his face still makes me question why some, this motoring hack included, can be so jaded about cars, especially ones like the 520d.



MOTORSCOPE

Toyota holds 17th classical concert tour in Asia

TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SERIES OF CONCERTS, "Toyota Classics—A World of Harmony," for classical music fans in Asia from Oct. 22 to Nov. 4. The event will take place in seven cities, including Singapore, Manila and Taipei. The Manila concert will be held on Oct. 24 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater. Joining the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra is most-awarded Filipino pianist, Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz.

This year's tour—the 17th since TMC began holding the concerts in 1990—continues to aim at contributing to the culture of music in Asia. The event will also be conducted in cooperation with Toyota distributors in Asia, with proceeds from each concert donated to local charities.

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the 2006 Toyota Classics series will feature the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra performing a collection of Mozart's masterpieces and world-famous classical selections.

The orchestra will be under the direction of Maestro Tatsuya Shimono, an award-winning conductor recognized at the Tokyo International Music Competition and the Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors in France.

The featured soloist will be flutist Ayako Takagi, one of the most acclaimed performers of her generation, whose numerous awards include grand prizes at the Japan Winds Competition. She has also performed extensively with various European orchestras including Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Orchestral de Paris.

Moreover, the orchestra will perform pieces with local artists to encourage international exchange through music.

Tickets are available at selected National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Department Store, Tower Records, Ayala Center, Greenbelt 1 ticket booth cinema lobby, Glorietta 1 ticket booth cinema lobby and on the Ticket World website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-9999 for ticket inquiry and reservations.

Lube vows to cut motorists' fuel consumption

QUANTUM GLOBAL INC., A FIRM ENGAGED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF PERFORMANCE LUBRICANT products, announced it will help motorists cut on its fuel consumption through its lubricant X-1R engine treatment.

During last week's presscon at the Speedzone in The Fort, Quantum Global told the press that X1-R, an engine treatment lubricant, is the only one to be inducted into the Space Foundation/Nasa Space Technology Hall of Fame. Quantum also cited American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Falex Corp. and Delco Remy among other world leading lube consumers with rigid lubricant demands.

"So much energy (fuel) resources are wasted because most of the country's vehicles are running under poorly lubricated engine conditions. These amounts, if combined annually, would run to billions of pesos which could have been used for other productive energy needs. Through X-1R we hope to eliminate these undue expenses," Quantum president Harlod R. Ledda says.

Ledda adds that X-1R does not leave any residue nor will it produce metal flakes (corrosion) in the engine because it penetrates the engine's metal surface and eventually becomes part of its molecular structure.

"I'm enjoying P3,500 monthly savings on gas after I poured in X-1R into my engine, which cost me only P950. I can bet my career this one will work to all motorists," X-1R endorser and TV personality Paolo Bediones says.

Columbia takes RFC RP team to 4x4 challenge

COLUMBIA SPORSTWEAR GAVE THE RAINFOREST CHALLENGE PHILIPPINE TEAM A PREVIEW OF what to expect in the Malaysian Rainforest Challenge 2006 through an off-road expedition to Sapang Bato in Pampanga.

With the participation of the Land Rover Club of the Philippines, Columbia Sportswear took the RFC Team to the two-day adventure last month to prep up the team for the November event in Malaysia where they will compete with challengers from other countries.

The expedition involved crossing rivers, negotiating bumpy terrain and a few hurdles here and there, and finding one's way in the middle of deep canyons and river gorges. The adrenaline was raised a bar higher due to the wet weather condition which made the rough road muddy as well. The participants were divided into 13 teams.

At the end of the drive, the 4x4 off-road adventurers relaxed at the waterfalls and hot springs of Sitio Target Puning in the outskirts of Clark. In between the two-day trek, the teams pitched tents and camped out at the grounds of Clark Development Corp.

Columbia Sportswear will be with the RFC Philippine team for the 10-day Rainforest Challenge in Malaysia on Nov. 24 to Dec. 4.

The event was staged in cooperation with Clark Development Corp., Petron, Philippine National Red Cross, Cost U Less, Hotwire TV, Final Inspection, and Yats International Wine Club.

The new American rear-wheel-drive classic

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

BIG, HEFTY AND SOLID WITH A BOLD egg-crate grille and a wide, hunkered-down stance, the Chrysler 300 C appears to be a guy car rather than a luxury sedan. But don't let its size and subtly aggressive, muscular styling intimidate you, for this Chrysler flagship has impeccable road manners and can transport a family of five as well as a hard-driving executive in opulent comfort.

Like the highly successful Chrysler PT Cruiser, the 300 C has a deliberately retro look. The 300 C contemporizes the great American car of the 1950s, returning to the long hood, short rear deck, prominent grille, high belt-line, low rooftop and chromed details of the Chrysler D'Elegance era. Inspired by the 1998 Chrysler Chronos V10 concept car, the return to the classic profile was facilitated by the decision to move the next generation of large Chrysler cars to rear-wheel drive (RWD) after a decade of cab-forward, front-wheel-drive designs.

Switch to RWD

Chrysler's merger with Daimler-Benz made the switch to RWD easier by providing access to the premium German carmaker's parts and technology. The 300 C uses a Mercedes automatic transmission, a Mercedes steering system, seat structures and electronic architecture and borrows suspension components from the E-Class.

So although the 300 C's design and RWD configuration hark back to the 1950s, its technology is premium state-of-the-art. The 3.5-liter, SOHC, 24-valve V6 engine, mated to a four-speed automatic transmission with gated shifter, delivers 250 brake horsepower at 6,400 rpm and max torque of 340 Nm at 3,800 rpm. Stabilizer bars front and rear supplement the short- and long-arm front suspension and the independent five-bar multilink rear suspension. Ventilated disc brakes with ABS are standard on all four 18-inch wheels as are traction control, cruise control, electronic stability program and brake assist.

Safety

Aside from these, standard safety equipment includes dual front and side supplemental airbags, keyless entry with immobilizer and security alarm system, multireflector fog lamps, third brake light, speed-sensitive power door locks, park assist rear sensor, rain-sensing wipers and five 3-point seatbelts that are height-adjustable for driver and front passenger.

While the 300 C's exterior looks sculpted in the classic tradition complete with chromed dual exhaust pipes, the interior shows the meticulous attention to detail of the early coach builders. Distinctive materials and textures such as leather seats and side trim, walnut wooden dashboard trim, tortoise shell on the steering wheel rim, shifter knob and satin-silver interior door handles contribute to the cabin's elegant, handcrafted ambience.

Seven plus

The audio system consists of a six-in-dash CD player and AM/FM tuner with seven Boston Acoustics speakers plus subwoofer. An analogue clock, temperature and compass gauges, power point on the center console, individual front aircon controls with rear outlets, rear armrest with cup holder and 60/40 folding rear seats count as some of the conveniences.

On a recent weekend, I took the 300 C to Tagaytay. The driver's seat is big, supportive and positioned higher than usual in sedans, giving you a commanding view of the road. Because of the roomy interior and the balance and performance benefits provided by RWD, the 300 C eminently qualifies as a comfortable touring car for long trips. The ride quality is firm yet controlled on most surfaces, road and wind noise are practically nil but the suspension gets a bit noisy sometimes.

Growl

The 3.5-liter, V6 engine propels this 1,712-kg car adequately, emitting a decent growl when pressed, but it must be certainly more exciting to drive the 5.7-liter, 340-bhp V8 Hemi variant or the 6.1-liter, 425-bhp V8 Hemi STR8. Back to the V6 variant, the 300 C's all-wheel disc brakes provide decent stopping power, the steering is direct and precise and the automatic tranny is smooth-shifting while the presence of four-wheel ABS, electronic stability and all-speed traction control reassure you of safe handling in adverse traction conditions.

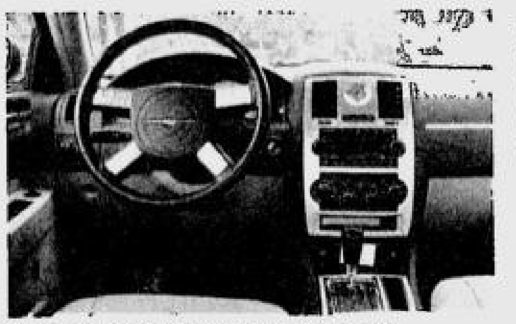
No wonder the Chrysler 300 C was voted the 2005 Motor Trend Car of the Year and has won many other awards, including the Best Luxury Car of the Year in the 2005 Philippine Car of the Year (Coty) Awards. Interestingly enough, the Consumer Reports 2006-2007 New Car Buying Guide recommends not the V8 variants, but the V6 300 C, which is sold here for P2.650 million.

* * *

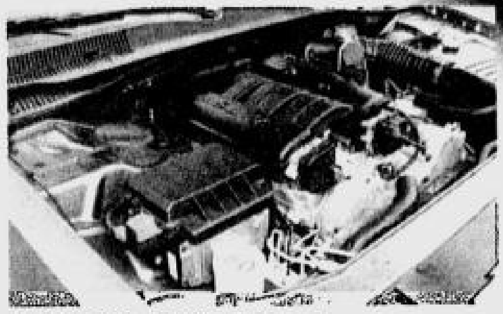
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@yahoo.com.



INSIDE, AN ELEGANT, handcrafted ambience PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA)



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AUTO WORKS	Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila	ECLIPSE	Del Monte Ave., QC	RJF CAR ACC	Sucat, Paranaque
AUTOBACS	Banawe St., QC	ENDLESS PASSION	Banawe St., QC	ROADSTAR ENT	San Antonio, Makati
AUTODYNAMIC	Fairview Ave., Q.C	GIA AUTO GLASS	Palico Iv Imus, Cavite	ROADSTAR ENT	Boni Global City, Taguig
AUTOFRIEND	Banawe St., QC	GINZA AUDIO CONCEPT	Tuazon St., Q.C	ROADSTAR ENT	Alabang, Muntinlupa
AUTOMATGIC	Karangiaan Dist. Dagupan	GINZA BANAWE	Banawe St. QC	ROADWORTH	Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati
AUTOMAKERS	Boni Ave. Mandaluyong	GOLDCARS	Sto. Domingo, Q.C	ROTO MASTER	Mandalagan, Bacolod City
AUTOSTAR	San Antonio, Makati	GOLDEN BRIDGE	San Antonio, Makati	R-SYSTEM	Alabang Town Center
AUTOZONE	Boni Global City, Taguig	GOLDRICH	Banawe St. QC	STERLING CAR ACC	Banawe St. QC
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BUFFLES BLUES	Las Pinas City	JAFFAS	Banawe St. QC	EAGLE F1 CAR ACC	Alabang Zapote Rd. LP
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CAR DE LUXE	Banawe St., QC	JOE'S CARSHACK	Banawe St. QC	TEAM RACING AUTOSHAPE	Binan, Laguna
CARSHAPE	Bicutan, Paranaque	KID AUDIO	San Antonio, Binan, Laguna	ULTIMATE	Banawe St. QC
		KOTSEKO CAR ACC	Mindanao Ave. Tandang Sora	USHIO	Banawe St. QC
		MABUHAY CAR ACC	Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas	VINCARS	Romulo Ave. Araneta Ctr
		MASTER WHEELS	Evangelista St., Makati	WINTERPINE STR	Araneta Ave. QC
		MCM AUTOCARE	Sn Vicente Binan, Laguna	ZAMBO TIRE SORE	Tetuan Zamboanga City

* Average windshield visor + rear + sides cost for small car (2.97m²–3.90m²)
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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ALFA WAN TAI INC. 2407 T. Mapua St. cor. Blumentritt St., Manila	Qingchang Wang	Consultant
TREASURE STEELWORKS CORPORATION 8/F, Wynsum Corporate Plaza 22nd St., F. Ortigas, Jr. Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Chao-Chang Lin	Steel Production Consultant
EIGHT INT'L. HUMAN RESOURCES & RECRUITMENT INC. Wardley Bldg., 1991-B San Juan St. cor. Taft Ave., Pasay City	Ka Na Wong	Assistant Manager
TRANSCONTAINER (TCL) PHILIPPINES, INC. G/F, TDG-NYK Harbor Center Bldg. I Railroad cor. 23rd & 24th Sts. Port Area, Manila	Rikizo Inomata	President
ZI-PANGU ENTERTAINMENT CLUB & RESTAURANT 1769 Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Yoshimasa Sudo	Cook Consultant
ZI-PANGU ENTERTAINMENT CLUB & RESTAURANT 1769 Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Rekito Shoji	Cook Consultant
ZI-PANGU ENTERTAINMENT CLUB & RESTAURANT 1769 Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Koji Ogasawara	Cook Consultant
EUN JEONG ENTERPRISES, INC. 411 MG Bldg., 2/F, Talipapa Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches Quezon City	Hue Soo Kang	Director on Operations
EUN JEONG ENTERPRISES, INC. 411 MG Bldg., 2/F, Talipapa Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches Quezon City	Jaeyong Jeong	General Manager
AISIS INT'L. MANPOWER INC. Rm. 301-305, Gedisco Ctr. 1564 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila	Rafea Salem El-Hawi	Representative
MIRAN NET CAFE INC. Arjay Bldg., L31 Blk 18, BF Resort Drive, BF Resort Village Talon Dos, Las Piñas City	Michael Kenny Aja Osita	General Manager
L & S LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER INC. 16 Cabarrus St., Fruition Bldg. BF Homes, Parañaque City	Yong Man Dong	Marketing Consultant
MAERSK GLOBAL SERVICE CENTRES (PHILIPPINES) LTD. 17/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City	Dwira Octavia Sihite	Assistant Manager, Export Documentation
WORLDCASH, INC. 43/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower One, 6819 Gil Puyat cor. Ayala Ave. Makati City	Mayuko Toshikuni	Operations Manager
RPR FOOD COMPANY Banawe St., Quezon City	Mai Thi Phuong Nguyen	Chief Cook
HANUL WORLD WIDE INC. 420 Celery Road, FTI Complex Taguig, M.M.	Sung Hwan Kim	President

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BAIS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the hereunder requirements:

ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1) P.R. # 912-060 – various const. materials for Maint. of Brgy. Roads to be taken from 20% and General Fund	P 209,484.00
2) P.R. # 913-06 – various const. materials for Const. of Gender and Citizen's Crisis Center to be taken from the 20% Development Fund.	1,146,969.00
3) P.R. # 917-06 – various const. materials for Concreting of Burgos Street to be taken from the 20% Development Fund.	3,285,262.00
4) P.R. # 967-06 – various const. materials for Water Supply System Development at various barangays to be taken from the 20% Development Fund.	164,530.00
	P 4,806,245.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

In order to qualify, bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Sec. 23.11 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. As such non-submission of the required documents will result in the disqualification of the bidder.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act.

Bid documents can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to the total amount of the ABC of the items in which interested bidders intend to bid, in accordance with the following rates:

Below P 50,000.00	0.5% but not less than P 100.00
P 50,000.00 but not more than P 100,000.00	0.45% but not less than P 250.00
P 100,001.00 but not more than P 200,000.00	0.4% but not less than P 450.00
P 200,001.00 - P 350,000.00	0.35% but not less than P 800.00
P 350,001.00 - P 500,000.00	0.3% but not less than P 1,225.00
P 500,001.00 - P 1,000,000.00	0.2% but not less than P 1,500.00
P 1,000,001.00 and above	0.1% but not less than P 2,000.00 and not more than P 10,000.00

Pre-bid conference will be conducted on **October 26, 2006**, 1:30 P.M. at the Office of the City Mayor.

Bid documents can be obtained at the BAC Secretariat c/o Office of the City Mayor or Office of the City General Services, this city, Tel. Nos. (035) 402-3182 or 402-8115, anytime during office hours; and can also be inquired for further information or particulars.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility, technical, and financial documents each in separate sealed envelopes duly marked as such in the bid box at the Conference Room at the Office of the City Mayor on November 6, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at which place, date and time said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The City Government of Bais reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **CARMELINO L. MORALES**
(City General Services Officer)
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 837-2934; 837-2071 to 82; Fax. No. (632) 837-3164

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE-DOST (FNRI) invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End-User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Final Opening of Bids		
One (1) unit Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer	PhP2.47M	Nov. 14, 2006 10:00 a.m.	Nov. 22, 2006 10:00 a.m.	PhP2,400.00	FSTD

Bids forms may be obtained from the FNRI Bids and Awards Secretariat, Property Section, FNRI Bldg. DOST Comp., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila from 8:00AM to 5:00PM during office hours starting November 2, 2006

Pre-bid conference will be held on November 14, 2006 at the FNRI Conference Room

Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely, BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers.

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G. Perlas/Mr. Hilarion "JUN" D. Sanchez, Jr at telephone no. 837-6149.

FNRI reserves the right to reject any or all without offering any reasons waive any required formality therein, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. FNRI further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders to any expense or loss that may be incurred in participating in the bidding.

(Sgd). **ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.**
Chairman, FNRI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 19, 2006)

PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Rice Research Institute, through the Government of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of **THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP3,225,000.00)** being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 06-0003. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **FABRICATION OF 750 PCS PLASTIC DRUM SEEDER (complete set)**. Delivery of Goods is required within three (3) months after receipt of the approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may inspect Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 9:00 to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 18 to 24, 2006 during regular office hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on October 24 2006, 2:00 pm at PhilRice, Training Rm 3, Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, N.E.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before 3rd of November 2006, 8:45 am. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos and 00/100 only (PhP32,250.00). Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on November 3, 2006, 9:00 am at Training Room 3. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend
9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **HAZEL JANE M. ORGE**
Vice Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 18, 2006)

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De Castro leads government delegation to Creba meet

VICE PRESIDENT and HUDCC Chair Noli De Castro is expected to head the government delegation to the Creba Annual Housing Forum on Oct. 19 and 21 at the Camp John Hay, Baguio, with the theme: "Pro-active Response to Property Trends & Opportunities".

Among the topics lined-up for the 3-day convention are BOI Incentives, Ownership Aspects of the Dual Citizenship Law, Tourism Thrusts, Global Trends on Real Estate Investment, Use of Retirement funds for Corporate Housing, and Pag-IBIG Funding Programs.

Techie Bautista, Creba convention chair for this year, said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market and the response thereto by Creba and its convention partners.

Pete Tario, Creba's president said that the annual Creba National Convention is the housing sector's contribution to this national effort of nation-building, by providing a national forum through which the stakeholders in the housing and real estate sector shall address current housing issues. As the acknowledged mouthpiece of the industry, Creba firmly declares that together with its partners, it is at the forefront in responding to property trends and opportunities.

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People, Events & Products

Multifunctional 'smart card' Versacard is here

TWO COMPANIES HAVE MERGED in order to bring a multifunctional smart card to the Philippines.

The ERG Group of Australia and First Versatile SmartCard Solutions Corp partnered in order to turn the Philippines into a true cashless society with Versacard, the first contactless prepaid cash card that will register all purchases and expenses charged by just putting it within proximity of a reader.

Using Versacard no longer requires swiping, as most cards in circulation today are employing, since the card uses the smart chip technology combined with radio frequency technology.

Joseph Issifu, president of First Versatile SmartCard Solutions, said it is high time for the Philippine economy to truly adopt the "concept and technologies that power a cashless society, to deliver convenience, financial mobility, ease and comfort, speed of cashless transactions in a hygienic, safe, secure and stylish manner."

Issifu said Versacard, which will be in circulation in the coming months, will contain a stored value and can be reloaded in convenience stores, reloading counters, ticket vending machines at train stations, in banks, ATMs or even through the cellphone. The Versacard can be easily purchased at any outlets that sell phone or Internet cards. One can even have a personalized Versacard that can also serve as one's identification card at any building or premises.

Australian based ERG Group is a world leader in the development and supply of integrated fare management and software systems for the transit industry, and for its smart card systems and services. The Group has installed smart card systems in Hong Kong (Octopus Card), Singapore (EZ Link Card), Melbourne, Rome, and San Francisco.

Int'l meet on social health insurance

THE PHILIPPINES IS HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on extending social health insurance to informal economy workers from Oct. 18 to 20. The conference, which will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City, is jointly organized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp (PhilHealth), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank (WB). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also providing support to the conference. Among the guest speakers are professor William Hsiao of the Department of Health Policy and Management of Harvard University; professor Soonman Kwon of Seoul National University, South Korea; Dr. Matthew Jowett, program advisor of the social health insurance component of the GTZ and Loraine Hawkins, lead health specialist of the World Bank office, Manila. The event will also have Social Security System (SSS) President and CEO Corazon de la Paz as resource person.

'Coffee and Comedy at the Bean'

CATCH POPULAR TV HOST AND VERSATILE STAND-UP COmedian Tim Tayag at different branches of Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf branches in Metro Manila this October. "Coffee and Comedy at the Bean", which features the multi-talented Tayag in a series of rib-tickling shows, is the novel brainchild of Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf and Globe Quest. These shows will serve as prelude to the Asian Games performances of Tayag and two other Filipino entertainers at Doha, Qatar from the last week of November to December. Tayag will be at the Coffee Bean outlet in Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center in Ortigas on Oct. 19. For inquiries, call eCircle Entertainment at 533-9316 or 531-6284 or e-mail info@eCIRCLEEntertainment.com.

EMS RECEIVES ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFICATION FROM SGS

EMS Components Assembly Inc, a Filipino-owned electronics manufacturing service provider based in Laguna Technopark Inc (LTI), was formally awarded its ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System certification by SGS Philippines Inc on Sept. 6 at The Palms Country Club in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The certification, valid until July 2009, covers manufacturing and inspection of parts for optical disk drive and manufacturing and inspection of coil assembly. Shown are (from left): SGS Philippines Inc's SSC division manager Roger Villanueva, EMS board member Nela S. Ferrer, president Francis I. Ferrer, factory manager Roel N. Peñaflor, manufacturing manager Eric S. Quiogue, board member Ronnie F. Adriano, and quality assurance and engineering manager Arthur I. Ledonio.

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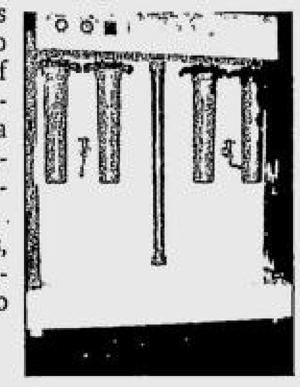

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **S TRADE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INC.** with **SEC REGISTRATION NO. A 199607743** has shortened its corporate Existence effective October 31, 2006 and that the Amended Article of Incorporation dissolving the corporation will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having valid claims against said corporation are requested to present them at its office at 9/F Stanisco Tower, 999 Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila.

(PDI--Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2006)

WANTED

Female College Graduate, can speak **Korean Language and English**, with or without experience, willing to learn must be **Computer Adequate**, apply in person. Bring Resumé, Diploma, Transcript of Record, Certification of Employee at:

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NFA rice for Milenyo victims

PALESTINA, PILI - THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority here has already issued 5,957 bags of rice to 25 local government units, 120 bags to non-government organizations and 500 bags to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for relief operations for victims of typhoon Milenyo.

Within 24 hours of the calamity, the NFA reactivated its operations center (OPCEN) to provide situational updates to the NFA management and to serve clients at the height of public storm signal number 3 in Camarines Sur.

NFA Camarines Sur provincial manager Edmundo Enrique assured that during and after milenyo's wrath, the food agency has enough rice stocks to meet the rice requirements of the province.

Enrique also said the NFA is offering its post-harvest facilities such as mechanical driers and hauling trucks to serve the needs of palay farmers in areas severely affected by the typhoon.

The NFA in the province has likewise issued 100 bags of rice each to congressmen Villafuerte and Alfelor which were also used for relief operations.

For more information on NFA relief operations and other programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please take notice that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the change in the corporate name of Cashrounds, Inc. to Information Capital Technology Ventures, Inc. (ICTV) on 19 September 2006.

ANGELINE L. MACASAET
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2006)

Retreat for widows

THE ANNUAL RETREAT FOR WIDOWS sponsored by PIETA, a spiritual organization of widows, will be held on Nov.9-11 at the Carmelite Missionaries Center of Spirituality at Kabangaan Road, Bgy. Irubin, Tagaytay City. Rev. Fr. Gerard Deveza, a healing priest from the Diocese of Sorsogon under retired Bishop Jesus Varela, will be the retreat director.

For particulars, call Dely Banzuela at 823-3690/ 0927-9158199; Crescing de Jesus at 531-7267; Aleli Ambrosio at 638-8400; Ellen Pampolina at 522-8858/0928-3294402; Estela B. Cerdenia at (043) 404-0433/0916-4859438.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS **More Classified Ad:**

Supreme Court...................... A19

OBITUARIES

ENGR. CALIXTO PLATA ARANZAMENDEZ, JR.

has peacefully joined his Creator on October 14, 2006 at the age of 75.

Nonong is a loving husband to **Charing** and a good father to **Ricky** and **Dianne**, **Belen** and **Art**, **Egay** and **Thelma** (†), **Edith** and **Joseph**, **Melot**, **Emon**, **Eloi**, **Emma** and **Butch**, **Kym**, and a doting Lolo to his grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Saturday, 21st October at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass, Loyola Memorial Chapels.

OBITUARIES

In loving memory of

ENGR. HERMOGENES DE CASTRO

of Iba, Zambales and Olongapo City

peacefully joined his Creator on the 15th of October 2006 at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife, children, children-in-law and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Knights of Columbus Clubhouse**, 3 Washington St., Lower Kalaklan, Olongapo City. Necrological service will be given by the Knights of Columbus today, October 18, 2006.

Interment will be on Friday, October 20, 2006 at the **Olongapo Memorial Cemetery** after the celebration of the 9 A.M. Holy Mass at the St. Joseph's Church, Olongapo City.

45th Death Anniversary
of the
LATE PRESIDENT

SERGIO OSMEÑA, SR.

(1878 - 1961)

Masses will be offered at the following Churches on 19 October 2006:

Malate Catholic Church *Malate, Manila*	6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *Ermita, Metro Manila*	6:30 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM
St. John Bosco Parish *Pasay Road, Makati City*	7:30 AM
Basilica Minore of Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral *Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Barasoain *Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag *Pangasinan*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish *Cebu City*	5:45 AM
St. Therese Parish *Lahug, Cebu City*	6:00 AM
Redemptorist Church *Cebu City*	6:00 AM
Basilica del Sto. Niño *Magallanes St., Cebu City*	5:30 PM
San Roque Parish Church *Wireless Mandaue City*	6:00 PM
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral *Cebu City*	6:30 PM
Sto. Rosario Parish *P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City*	6:30 PM

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
wish to announce the entrance into eternal life of

Sister Mary Alice O'Rourke, MM

On October 15, 2006 at the age of 93
at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York

She had been a Maryknoll Sister for seventy-one years. She was assigned to Maryknoll College and was in charge of the Social Work Course and the founder of the Philippine Agency for Community and Family in 1963.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

LA FUNERARIA CATALINA
Division of Paz Memorial Services

We, also known as **PAZ LIFE**, are pleased to announce that our funeral service division has been in operation since October 1, 2006 at 1501 CM Recto cor. T. Mapua Sta. Cruz, Manila.

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HECTOR O. DEL ROSARIO
President
PAZ MEMORIAL SERVICES

LEONARDO "Narding" L. ABESAMIS, SR.

of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 15th of October 2006 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his loving wife **Aurelia**; children **Amado** and **Jane**, **Alberto** and **Lulu**, **June** and **Blessie**, **Aileen** and **Allan**; grandchildren, sisters, brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, relatives and friends, request all to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija. Interment will be on Saturday, 21st of October, 2006, 1:00 p.m. at New Heaven Memorial Cemetery, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija.

BUSINESS

Investments in electronics sector up 67%

Figures in last 3 quarters show industry sustaining momentum

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND Electronics Industry Association of the Philippines Inc. on Tuesday pushed the agenda on national competitiveness forward as experts see the electronics industry's growth momentum picking up as shown by its positive performance in the first three quarters of the year.

Seipi data showed that investments in the sector in the nine months up to September grew 67 percent to $575 million (about P28.8 billion) from $330 million in the same period last year.

Some of the biggest investments committed during the period included those of Intel Technology Philippines, P6.9 billion; Toshiba Information (Equipment) Philippines, P5.1 billion; Cypress Manufacturing, P3.4 billion; TI Philippines, P2.3 billion; Taiyo Yuden, P2 billion, and Integrated Microelectronics, P1 billion.

"We can easily achieve double-digit growth by the end of the year with this kind of momentum we are seeing in the industry," said Arthur Tan, Seipi president.

Seipi also recorded a 15.5-percent growth in semiconductor exports in the first seven months; 10.4 percent in electronics; 13.3 percent in communications products, and 9.4 percent in automotive electronics.

The group said semiconductor products continued to account for the biggest share in the country's total export earnings at 48 percent or $16.6 billion from January to July.

Industry figures further showed that export earnings jumped 12.4 percent to $19.5 billion in the eight months ending in August.

Arthur Young, a member of the Seipi board, said there was a tendency among firms toward continued expansion as this was needed to cope with the growth in demand.

During Seipi's 8th CEO Forum themed "Global eyes from the top guys" held yesterday at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, officials said the industry was supporting the government's thrust to enhance the country's competitiveness "in response to the negative pictures painted by global economic reviews and indicator ratings.

One such report is the World Bank and International Finance Corp.'s "Doing Business 2007," which showed that the Philippines ranked 126th out of 175 economies based on reforms related to business regulations and processes.

Tan, who is also president and chief executive of Integrated Microelectronics, said Seipi lauded President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assurance that her administration would keep and enhance incentives offered to strategic and foreign investors, especially exporters like the group's members.

Online medical library established

UNITED LABORATORIES Inc. has launched a 24-hour online scientific information resource center to support the research and information needs of the medical and healthcare sectors.

Unilab chair Jocelyn Campos-Hess said the facility, called Electronic Scientific Databank (e-SDB), would make research work more convenient for doctors, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. This forms part of Unilab's commitment to address the continuing education needs of the medical and allied professions, she said in a statement.

The e-SDB is a comprehensive online medical resource center that offers full text of medical studies and articles from reputable international scientific journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Drug Topics.

The facility will help keep the medical and allied professions updated on the latest trends and developments in medical research and technology.

Cut in chicken import duty sought

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture is seeking the temporary suspension of the special taxes slapped on chicken imports from November to December this year.

This is to ensure adequate supply of chicken, particularly during the Christmas season, as local production is seen to drop due to the damages inflicted by Typhoon "Milenyo" on the poultry industry.

The agriculture department specifically wants the implementation of the so-called special safeguard mechanism (SSM) suspended for the importation of 3,000 metric tons, equivalent to 3 million kilos, of chicken from Nov. 20 to Dec. 25 this year.

The SSM, a measure provided under the World Trade Organization, imposes an additional duty of P10 to P30 per kilo on chicken when landed cost of the imports falls below P93.96 per kilo. This is on top of the 40-percent regular tariff slapped on chicken imports.

Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said this measure was aimed at preventing undue competition posed by cheap imports to local poultry raisers and the erosion of chicken prices.

Serrano said, however, this measure had to be suspended in the next two months to address possible supply shortfall during the holidays.

The tax suspension, he said, would be implemented during the months when demand for chicken was expected to peak.

"The damages inflicted on the poultry industry by Typhoon Milenyo (Xangse) will have severe impact on local supply and consumer prices," Serrano said.

He, however, stressed that all imports would still be subject to the regular 40 percent tariff whether they were within or outside the minimum access volume (MAV) of 23,490 MT allowed this year.

As of September, some 16, 544 MT of chicken have been imported under the MAV quota.

According to Bureau of Animal Industry Director Davinio Catbagan, backyard and commercial poultry raisers recognized the impact on local chicken supply of the recent typhoon and were in full support of the planned suspension of the SSM.

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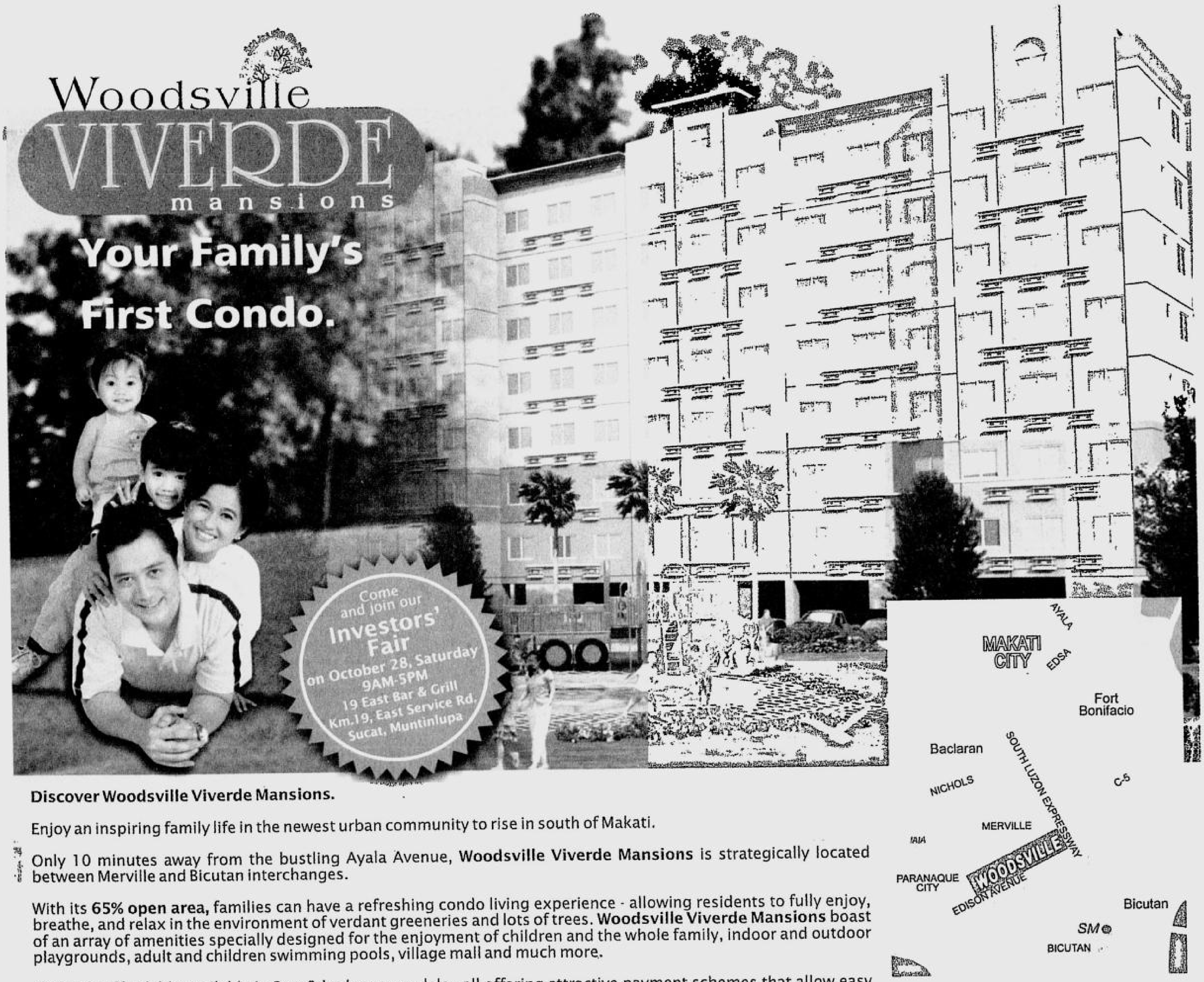

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

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Sembreak smorgasbord

We at 2bU! want to make sure you make the most out of your sembreak. This week, we bring to you an extra-packed issue that will help you make sure your vacation days are extra-packed, too.

Read about the Ateneo Blue Eaglets, the UAAP junior division champs, and be inspired to give basketball or any sport a shot (and watch out for our story on the NCAA junior champs coming soon!); discover fun shopping at Samuel & Kevin; watch the Philippine Women's University Chorale concert; learn how you can join Animax's fashion design contest; join your favorite celebrities at The Global Walk Against Breast Cancer; find out why you should visit Palawan; explore the possibilities of studying in Singapore; enjoy new developments in gaming and portals; blog and get a chance to win P10,000; and take Step No. 1 in becoming part of the 2bU! family. Read on, rock on

Eaglets flying high

Ateneo's young squad became the UAAP junior division champs in a do-or-die battle against the Baby Tams

Text by Ruth L. Navarra
Photos by August dela Cruz

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLETS wanted the championship, but they didn't expect to dominate the junior division of the basketball competition.

They claimed the automatic finals berth after sweeping the elimination round with a clean 12-0 win-loss card. All their hard work paid off in the 69th season of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

"We had a harder training regime this year as compared to last year. We focused on things like running. We were more serious and had an intensified desire to win," says captain and Most Valuable Player Bacon Austria.

So it was a little humbling for the Eaglets to have their first taste of defeat when they lost to the Far Eastern University Baby Tamaraws on Game 1.

"Our morale took a nosedive after that game. Although it was our coaches who talked to us and pointed what was lacking with us, it was the conversation with the whole team that made us bounce back," says co-captain Mike Gamboa.

This is what separated the boys from the men as they set aside for a while their playfulness and adopted a more serious demeanor.

"We asked ourselves if we really wanted this, if we really wanted to have the championship," says Austria. "We discussed how we would push ourselves a little harder. How we could give everything to achieve this."

The pep talk worked, as they became the champions in a do-or-die battle against the Baby Tams last Sept. 30. It was the Eaglets' 15th championship title since they joined the league, and an added bonus to a team that had always treated each other as members of a family.

"We would go to computer shops once in a while to play Counter Strike. Sometimes, if we have time, we would watch movies together. Our favorite genre is comedy," says Austria. "We regularly go to Mass together before our games."

When asked if the girls have treated them any differently since they've become champions, the boys shyly reply that they get more attention nowadays.

"But we're not yet on the Chris Tiu level," says Gamboa.

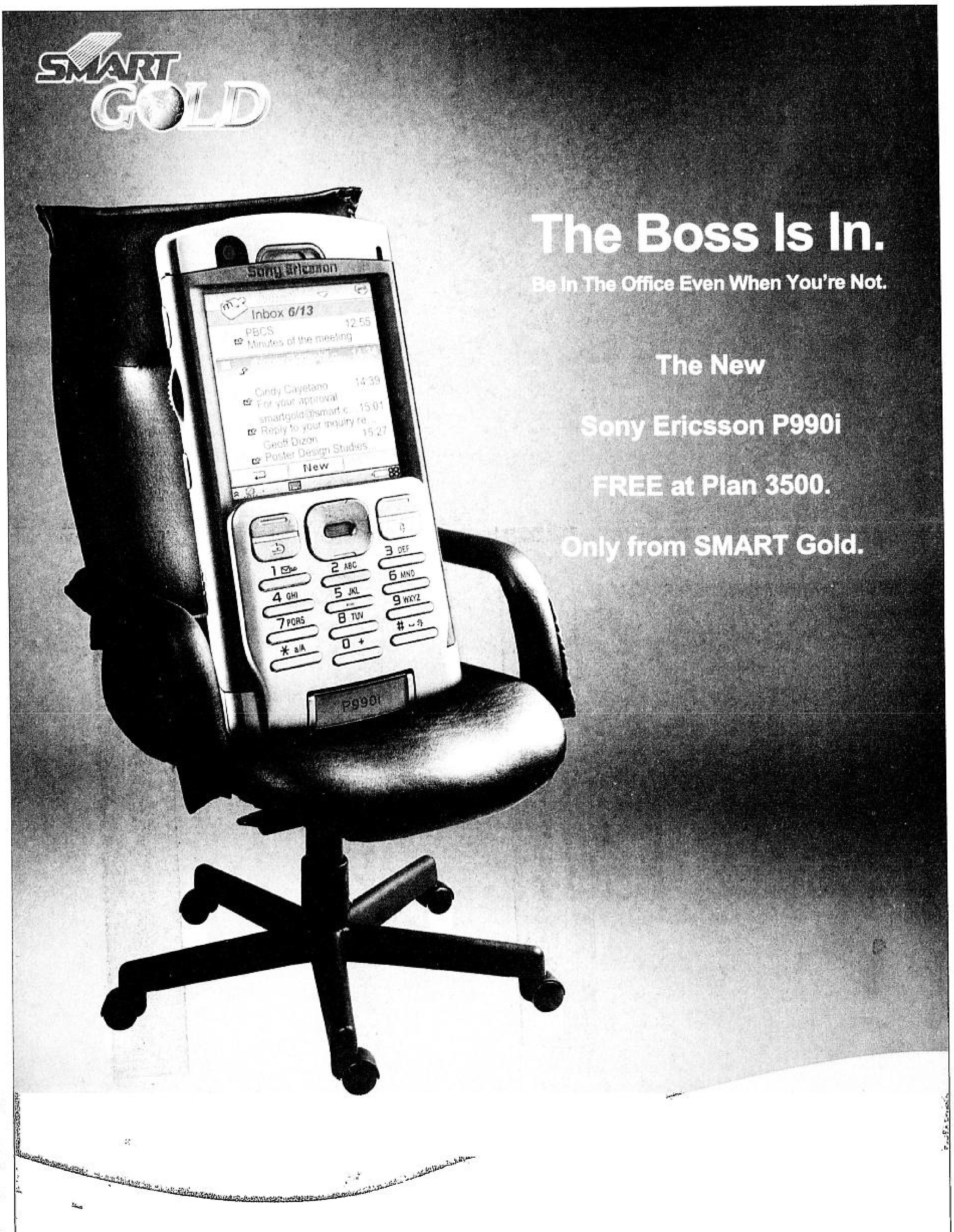
They will give back something to their fans, Ateneo's legendary sixth man, on Oct. 27. They will share their victory through a bonfire ceremony at the Ateneo Bellarmine Field. The boys have promised to perform something for the Ateneo community that day. But they still wouldn't say whether the team will dance or sing.

"What we're going to do is still a secret, but it will be something special," promises Gamboa.

E-mail the author at rnavarra@inquirer.com.ph

EAGLETS/ C2

MANY THANKS TO MICO HALILI AND GERRY ESQUIVEL



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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Eaglets flying high

From page C1

Michael Joseph Z. Gamboa

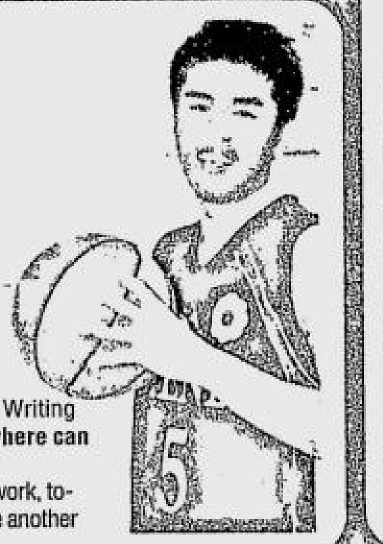
Age: 17
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 4
Position: Point guard
Favorite subject: History
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship and I was part of the mythical five
Most important lesson learned this season: Dreams do come true, but they are never free.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Greatest passion next to basketball: Soccer
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Movie houses and malls
What makes a champion team: Small players, but with very big hearts

John David Dumrique

Age: 15
Year level: Second year high school
Jersey number: 12
Team position: Guard
Favorite subject: Math/PE
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won our first game, and the championship game
Most important lesson learned this season: A family is stronger than a team.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Greatest passion next to basketball: Drawing
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? School and house
What makes a champion team?: Family, prayer and defense

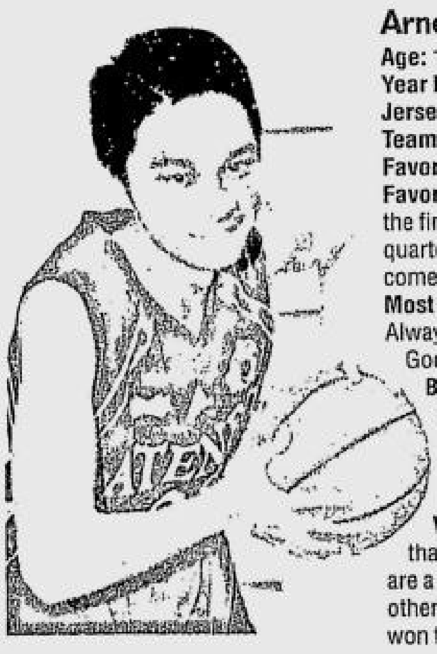
Juan Miguel Tiongson

Age: 15
Year level: Second year high school
Jersey number: 18
Team position: Guard
Favorite subject: PE/ Science
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the UAAP crown
Most important lesson this season: Unleash the fury.
Basketball idol: LeBron James
Greatest passion next to basketball: Studies
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home
What makes a champion team? Hard work, teamwork, defense, family



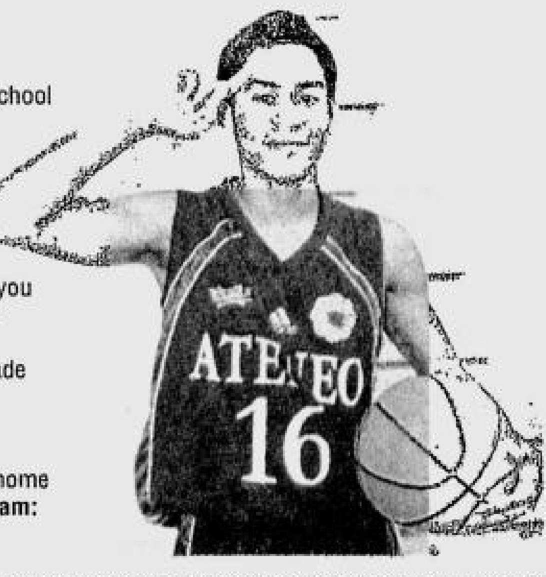
Angelo Lorenzo Y. Esquivel

Age: 16
Year level: Third year high school
Team position: Forward
Jersey number: 5
Favorite subject: Math and English
Favorite UAAP moment: Jai Reyes' three-point shot against Adamson in the Juniors finals.
Most important lesson this season: Dreams do come true.
Basketball idol: Larry Bird
Greatest passion next to basketball: Writing
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? I'd usually be at home.
What makes a champion team? Hard work, togetherness, selflessness and faith in one another



Arnelli Abelardo A. Aportadera

Age: 16
Year level: Third year high school
Jersey number: 20
Team position: Forward center
Favorite subject: English and Math
Favorite UAAP moment: Games 1, 2 and 3 of the finals, when FEU was leading in the fourth quarter of game 3 and we were able to overcome that lead.
Most important thing learned this season: Always play for the school, friends, family and God's greater glory.
Basketball idol: Enrico Villanueva
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? Either in Greenbelt or Eastwood watching a movie or at home, relaxing.
What makes a champion team? A team that is well-bonded on and off the court. We are a family, and that separates us from the others. That's one of the main reasons why we won the championship.



EJ Valera

Age: 16
Year level: Third year high school
Jersey number: 16
Team position: Guard
Favorite Subject: AP
Favorite UAAP moment: Winning UAAP Season 69
Most important lesson learned this season: When you work hard, you achieve your dreams.
Basketball idol: Dwyane Wade
Greatest passion next to basketball: Football
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home
What makes a champion team: Hard work, desire and pride

Carlo Christopher D.S. Balmaceda

Age: 17
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 6
Team position: Guard/forward
Favorite subject: Math
Favorite UAAP moment: Enzo Katipunan's three-pointer to tie the game
Most important lesson learned this season: Work hard and stay together, and the greatest rewards will come in the end.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Greatest passion next to basketball: Family and my friends
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home or with my friends.
What makes a champion team? When the team is not just a team but a family. Also, it is when everybody has complete trust in each other, that no one leaves anyone no matter what happens.

Frank Golla Jr.

Age: 16
Year level: Third year high school
Jersey number: 17
Team position: Center
Favorite subject: AP
Favorite UAAP moment: When I became the player of the game against FEU during the second round of eliminations
Most important lesson learned this season: What we do in life echoes in eternity.
Basketball idol: Joseph Golla
Greatest passion next to basketball: Sketching/drawing
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? House
What makes a champion team? Teamwork, defense, good players, hard work

Kevin John Gamboa

Age: 15
Year level: Second year high school
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Post perimeter (forward)
Favorite subject: Social Studies
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
Most important lesson learned this season: Teamwork and unity is a big factor in winning a championship
Basketball idol: Larry Fonacier
Greatest passion next to basketball: Being with my friends and hanging out with them
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home studying and being with my family
What makes a champion team? Listening and trusting your coaches and especially your teammates. Also, hard work and perseverance.

Raymond "Bacon" Austria

Age: 17
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 8
Team position: Forward
Favorite subject: Social Studies/ AP
Favorite UAAP moment: After we won the championship!
Most important lesson learned this season: To be a winner!
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson
Greatest passion next to basketball: Eating!
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home
What makes a champion team? Family, dedication, desire, focus, leaders, heart, communication and system

Ivan Angelo Enriquez

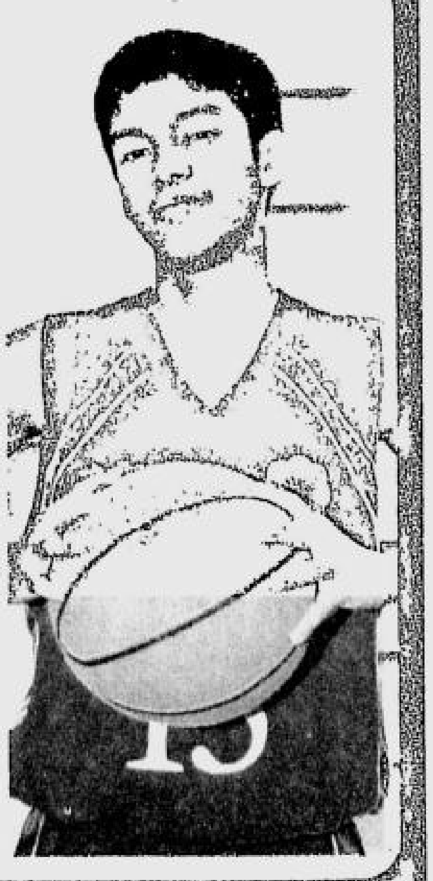
Age:16
Year level: Second year high school
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Center
Favorite subject: Social Studies
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
Most important lesson learned this season: Resiliency is a defining factor in success or failure.
Basketball idol: Tonino Gonzaga
Greatest passion next to basketball: Being with my friends and hanging out with them
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home studying for a quiz and spending time with my family
What makes a champion team? Having the courage to sacrifice the things that matter to you the most, like time with your friends, playing computer games and more.

Tonino Gonzaga

Age: 18
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 10
Position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: The whole finals
Most important lesson learned this season: Do everything for God's greater glory.
Basketball idol: Carmelo Anthony
Greatest passion next to basketball: Studies
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? Watching movies or at home
What makes a champion team: 14 mentally strong players and a few coaches working together as one family

Enzo Katipunan

Age: 17
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 14
Team position: Shooting guard/ Small forward
Favorite subject: Math, Art
Favorite UAAP moment: Making the three in the last two minutes of game 3 and winning the championship
Most important lesson learned this season: Have fun and work hard.
Basketball idol: JJ Redick, Larry Fonacier, Johnny Abarrientos, Olsen Racela
Greatest passion next to basketball: Football, drawing, eating
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? Moro Lorenzo Clinic
What makes a champion team? Hard work, trust and wanting the championship more than the opponent



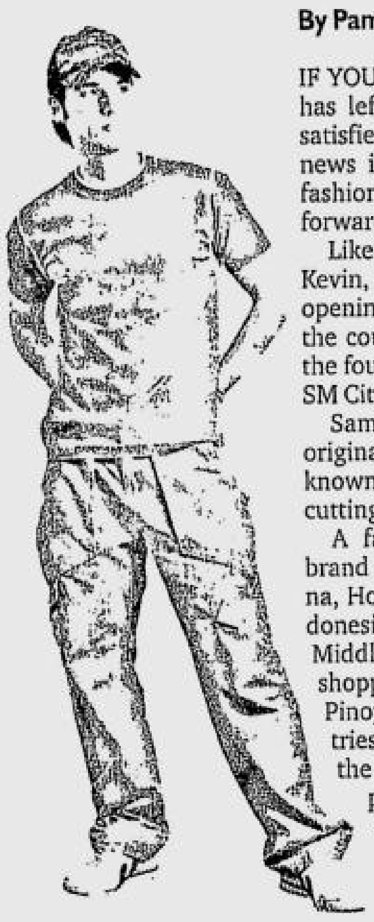
Alec Rivera

Age: 17
Year level: Fourth year high school
Jersey number: 15
Team position: Point Guard
Favorite subject: English
Favorite UAAP moment: Game 3 of the finals Season 69, at the sound of the buzzer!
Most important lesson learned this season: God really works in mysterious ways, never say die, and that there is no "I" in team. I believe these quotations give meaning to our championship because while our morale had dropped to zero after our loss in Game 1, we set our minds on winning with the help of our coaches, and we worked harder as a team to get our victory.
Basketball idol: Allen Iverson
Greatest passion next to basketball: Anything that has to do with writing, and maybe something in line with arts
When not in the hardcourt, where can we find you? Katipunan, Greenhills or the Scout area, QC
What makes a champion team? Family—the parents and their children who build their love for one another through the thick and thin of the season

CAMO cool. Samuel & Kevin will soon be open to serve you.

Say hello to two new boys of fashion

By Pam Pastor



IF YOUR RETAIL EXPERIENCE has left you feeling less than satisfied lately, the good news is you've got new fashion blood to look forward to.

Like Samuel & Kevin, which is finally opening its first store in the country this month at the fourth level of The Block in SM City North Edsa.

Samuel & Kevin, a brand originally from China, is known for clothes that are both cutting edge and functional.

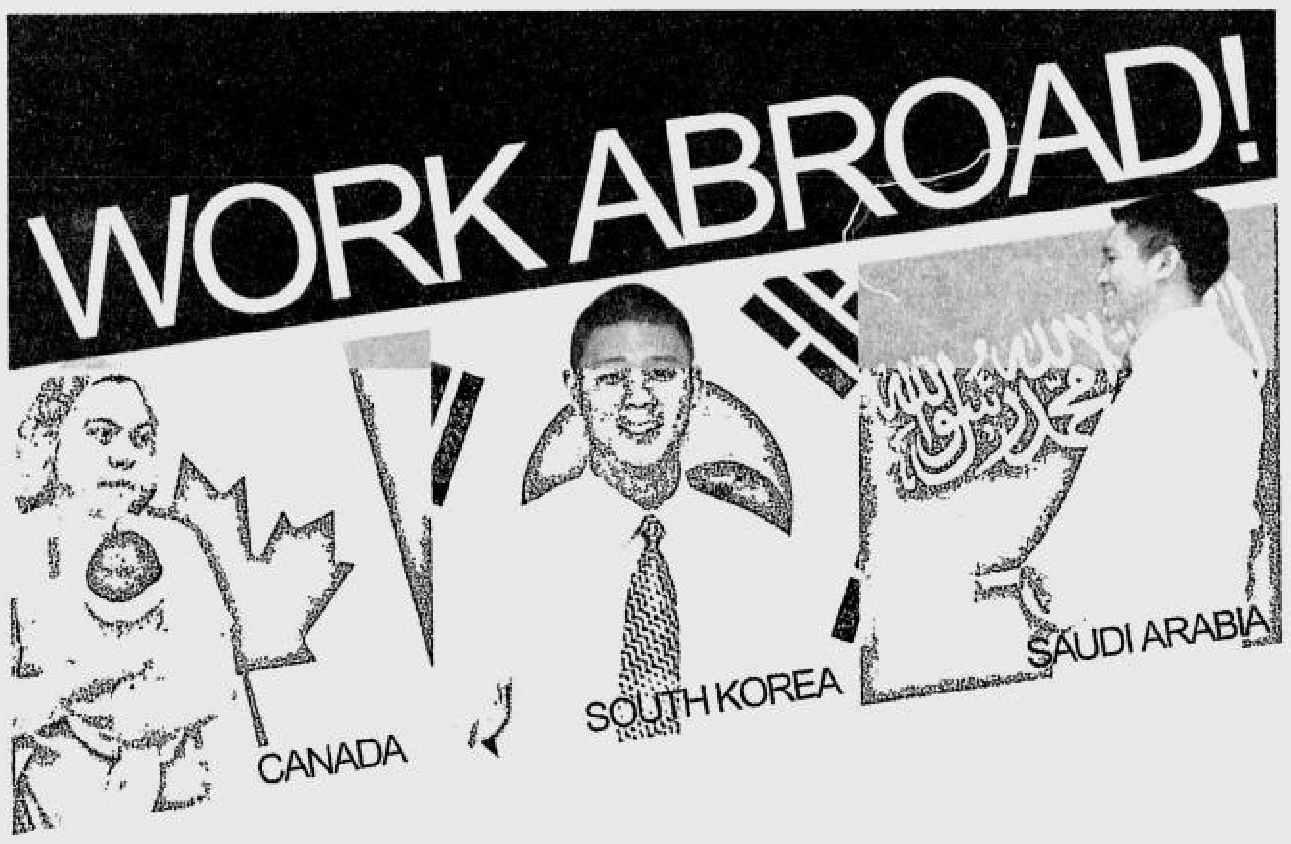
A favorite leisure clothing brand of young people in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and in the Middle East, S&K is also a shopping must-stop for Pinoys who visit these countries. With 600 shops all over the world, it's no big surprise it has captured the attention of people with a passion for fashion.

Specializing in pants, S&K recently launched camouflage cargo pants with a matching watch which fans of the brand loved. S&K takes pride in offering "value for money, quality products and services." Soon, Pinoys will get to enjoy the S&K shopping experience without having to hop into a plane.

"We're very excited to do business in the Philippines and let Filipinos experience the quality behind each S&K product. Filipinos are one of the most fashion-forward people in Asia and we are confident that S&K will adequately satisfy their fashion preference and standards," said Leo Lam, COO of Baleno Kingdom Limited.

Say hello to Samuel & Kevin. They'll be here to stay.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com



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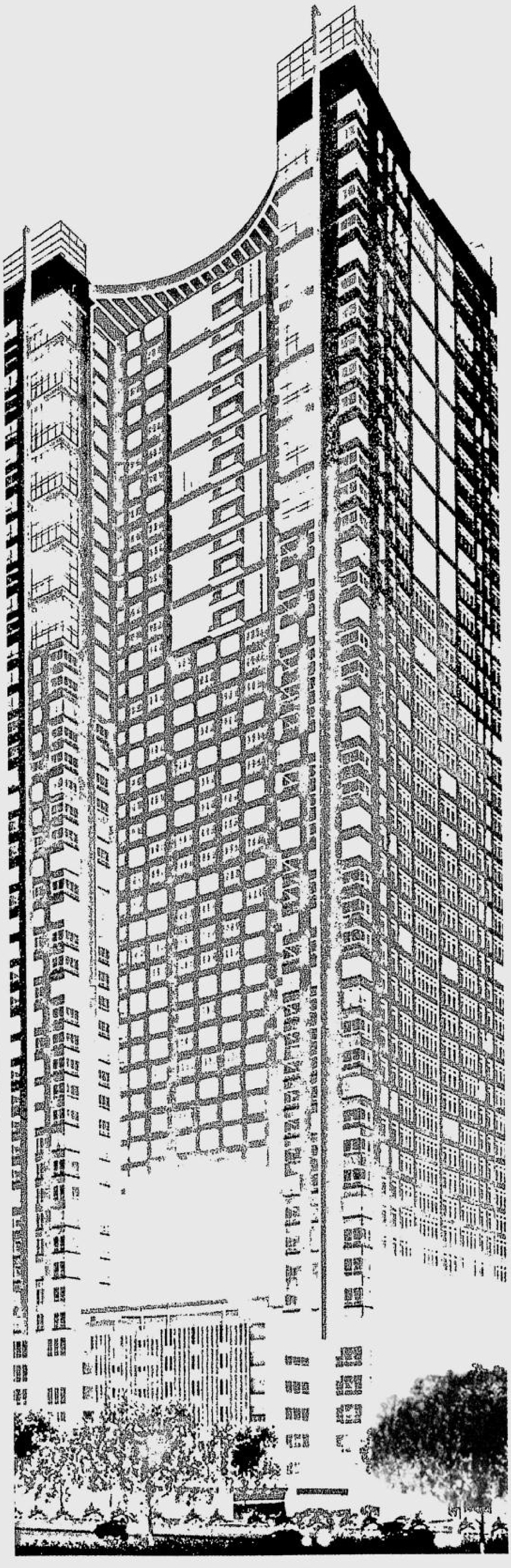

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TV stars think pink

By Pam Pastor

CELEBRITIES LIVE crazy lives—sleepless nights, no days off, set-hopping, autograph-signing, interviews, endless photo shoots.

But even celebrities are not too busy to try to make a difference and support causes they believe in.

Some GMA 7 artists are proudly wearing pink scarves that symbolize Avon's Kiss Goodbye for Breast Cancer campaign this year.

For the second year, Avon has partnered with GMA 7 in its quest to raise awareness for the early detection of breast cancer.

The cause is close to the hearts of these personalities because many of them have loved ones who are victims or survivors of the disease.

"We are so happy to see them go out of their way, despite their busy schedules, to help us in this endeavor. I am sure that breast-cancer patients will appreciate what these GMA artists are doing to spread the word about early detection of the disease. I hope many others will join us Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer," says Bob Briddon, Avon Philippines general manager.

Some GMA talents supporting the cause include Cogie Domingo, Lovi Poe, German Moreno, Boy2 Quizon, Ara Mina, "Unang Hirit" hosts Arnold Clavio, Suzi Entrata-Abrera, Lhar Santiago, Rhea Santos and Lyn Ching; "StarStruck" discoveries Christine Reyes, LJ Reyes, Johan Santos, Mike Tan, Vaness del Moral, Rea Nakpil, Benj Pacia, Michael Garcia, Vivo Oano, Janna Rojas and Jeric Rizalado; and Pinoy Pop Superstars Jonalyn Viray and Brenan Espartinez.

JONALYN Viray

COGIE Domingo

LOVI Poe

Their schedules are crazy but they have time to help. If they can do it, so can you

MIKE Tan

You, too, can play your part in raising breast-cancer awareness.

The Global Walk Against Breast Cancer will be held 6:30 a.m., Oct. 22, simultaneously in the Mall of Asia in Manila, Rizal Park in Bacolod City, and DV Soria corner Tirso Nery Street in Cagayan de Oro City.

To join the walk, visit any Avon branch in Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro or Bacolod, or call the Avon help desk at (02)8642900 or (02)8642902. The P50 registration fee entitles the walkers to a free KGBC scarf.

This year's fundraising will continue the support for the PGH Breast Care Center and provide assistance to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod and the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro.

Are you doing your part in changing the world? Inspire others with your stories. E-mail changetheworld@inquirer.com.ph

Local game and portal development becomes more exciting

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

THE RECENT WEEKS HAVE seen some of the more interesting developments on gaming and software development as well as the local Internet scene.

First off, Matahari Studios at Ortigas, Pasig, the game developing arm of LAI Games that also runs the ubiquitous Timezone gaming arcades, offers aspiring local gamers and talented software developers an answer to the one question they've all thought at one time or another: How great would it be to make games for a living? Imagine the opportunity not only to play games at work and call it "research" without raising your boss' eyebrows, but to conceptualize, design, and work with like-minded talents to develop your own games.

In this regard, you might say game software developer and general manager Eric Marlow is living the dream. The former programmer and management consultant has been working in the interactive entertainment industry since 1999. "I love playing games, so it was an easy transition for me when I wanted to start making game software products. He chuckles when he says "it's always fun to say that I play games for a living."

But he said not everyone is cut out for this job. "We approach game development almost the same as if we were making a movie," he said. "Game developers think differently from your average, say, database developer. Unlike their programs which start and stop, ours keep going on as the gamer keeps playing."

Thus, the selection for talented programmers is challenging. "If you ask me what I look for in a programmer, I'm looking for people who've already tried to do something at some point. It doesn't have to be spectacular. We can train them later on. What I want to see is someone who's done even a simple game written in any language."

The job offers its unique awards, according to Matahari chief designer Lester Policarpio. "It's very fulfilling to see Timezone customers enjoy our games," he said. "We've put a lot of research and attention into every detail and it feels good to see people appreciate it."

Marlow himself is upbeat about finding talented programmers in the country.

"I am very excited about being here to be a part of this burgeoning industry in the Philippines," he said. "There is a lot of excitement in making games these days, and I just enjoy being around creative and passionate people."

Visit Mataharistudios.com to see if you've got what it takes.

88DB.com.ph

If you think you've had enough of the portal phenomenon, here comes 88DB.com launching what they call "The First Philippine Service Portal."

Essentially a classified ads for services, 88DB.com.ph promises to help you look for a high-end party hub to budget-friendly gadgets, and is the "hottest gateway which can cater to all your needs and wants."

A full range of classified services is brought together in 88DB, from beauty to pet care, tutoring to music, and party gigs to the latest job opportunities.

Their website comes on strong with every nook and cranny jammed with details. Fortunately, the left sidebar brings some order to the fray, displaying categories which span the range from Arts and Crafts; Beauty, Health and Fitness; Building and Construction; Business Services; Cars and Bikes; Communities and Associations; Computers and the Internet; Design and Production; Events and Activities; Food and Beverage; Funeral Services; Household; Medical; Music; Performing Arts; Pets; Print Media; School, Lessons, and Instructions; Sports; Travel; and Weddings.

Sub-categories are also jampacked. The Computers and Internet section by itself could be further broken down into as much as 2,118. Here we see topics ranging from Clubs and Associations to Events Seminars and Activities, Games and Online Gaming, Hardware and Peripherals, Network Solutions, Outsourcing, etc.

88DB.com country manager Jayjay Viray said, "88DB is an all-encompassing portal for people offering services and people who want to avail of them... This is one way by which talented individuals can promote their abilities and skills. It's also another way to generate additional income, regardless if you have a full-time job or if you are a freelancer."

Project: local runway

ANIMAX, ASIA'S FIRST 24-HOUR cable and satellite TV channel exclusively dedicated to Japanese animation programming (and the Philippines' No. 1 animé channel), recently launched the Animax Fashion-Ability Model Search and Design Competition.

Are you a style icon? Set the style for the new generation and show the world your most creative designs. Inspired by the hit animé series "Paradise Kiss," Animax is holding an inter-school fashion competition and model search to encourage students' creativity and expression through design.

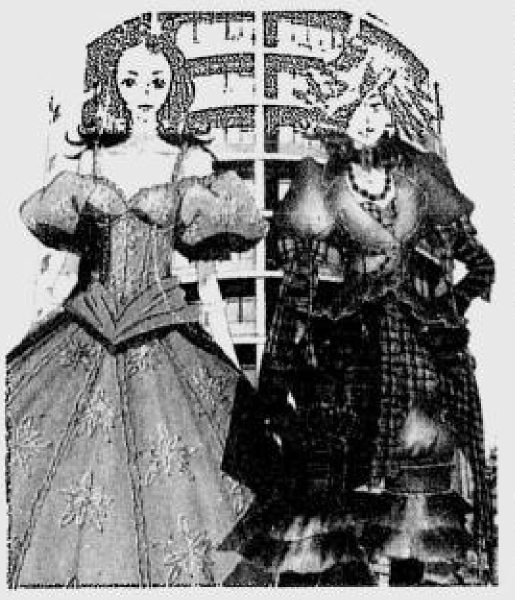
Targeting some of Manila's top schools, colleges and universities, the campaign called "Animax: Fashion-Ability" invites students and amateur designers ages 18 and above to design a minimum two-piece outfit that must incorporate a butterfly or flower motif.

A total of 20 finalists will be chosen and given the opportunity to display their creations at a gala fashion show to be held at Glorietta, Ayala Center, Nov. 18. The winning designer will receive a U$2,000 educational grant plus other prizes.

Meanwhile, a talent scout and photographer will be on the lookout for the next top model as Animax goes to some of Manila's top hotspots in search of those gifted with the X-factor, who will then enjoy the chance to sashay down the Animax runway during the grand fashion show.

This campaign is in line with Animax's new series, "Paradise Kiss." From creator Ai Yazawa, with costumes designed by top fashion designer Atsuro Tayama, "Paradise Kiss" is the story of teenager Yukari Hayasaka who is swept off her feet and joins a group of fashion design students as a model and is thrust into the colorful world of fashion and romance. The series airs every Monday, 7:30 p.m., on Animax.

Deadline of submission is Oct. 22. Visit www.animax-asia.com.


GET YOUR dose of animé fashion from Animax.

Do you want to be a 2bU correspondent?

[illegible]

Blog your answer and win great prizes!

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT IT IS EVERY blogger's dream to be paid to blog. Who wouldn't want to be compensated for doing something you love?

While 2bU! cannot offer you that option yet, we can give you a chance to win P10,000 and other exciting prizes just for blogging.

We hooked up with Pacific Internet, one of the country's pioneer Internet service providers, which offers a wide array of services such as high-bandwidth Internet access, VoIP technology, IT-enabled solutions, anti-virus protection, spam attacks, anti-hacking programs and more.

"The Internet's potential to inform, educate, entertain and conduct business on a worldwide scale has caught the imagination of millions and has changed the course of human history unlike anything since the television was invented," said Jojie Yap, president of Pacific Internet Philippines.

Now we want to know: How has the Internet changed your life?

Blog your answer. Be as creative as you want. You can upload a video, write an essay, make a slideshow, try poetry. Your imagination is the only limit.

Then send the link to your blog entry to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph along with your name, age, school/office and contact info.

The grand prize winner will get to bring home P10,000 in cash and a PC Secure Antivirus Installer, a security solution that comes with 24/7 call-in technical support, 12 Months of Automatic Virus Pattern Updates, Comprehensive Virus Detection and Removal, Enhanced Network Virus Protection, Integrated PDA Virus Protection, Anti-spam Filtering, URL Filtering and Parental Control, Advanced Privacy and Spyware Protection and Multiple Security Profiles.

Twenty finalists will receive special Blogging Kits containing a year's supply of Surfmaxx prepaid cards (one prepaid card every month for the next 12 months) and BLIS Speed Booster Starter Kits and Reload Cards, a no-brainer application that can jack up your Internet connection up to seven times its normal speed, letting you multitask and beat those crazy deadlines.

Blog on!

Deadline for entries is Nov. 15.

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PWU Chorale in concert

THE MCO FOUNDATION AND EQUITABLE PCI Bank present The Philippine Women's University Chorale in concert Oct. 19, 7 p.m., at the EPCI Bank, Tower I, Francisco Santiago Hall, Makati Ave., cor H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City.

The PWU Chorale is a university-based choral group founded by former PWU College of Music Dean and renowned Philippine composer Dr. Francisco Feliciano.

The group, initially under the baton of choir conductor Robert Delgado, won second prize in the National Competition for Young Artists (Namcya). This was followed by the Namcya Festival in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, where they performed with other Namcya winners. They have since been recognized locally and internationally. In 2000, the Philippine Women's University Chorale was dubbed one of the Best University Choirs in the Philippines.

Now under choral master professor Eiletess Mayor Carino of the PWU School of Music, the PWU Chorale recently won second place in a competition held on March 3 at St. John Bosco Parish with the theme "Himig Kabataan Alay Don Bosco."

The Philippine Women's University Chorale will be performing madrigals, sacred music, *kundiman*, folk songs from all over the world, contemporary pieces and even novelty songs.

The concert is free. Call the PWU School of Music at 3392582.

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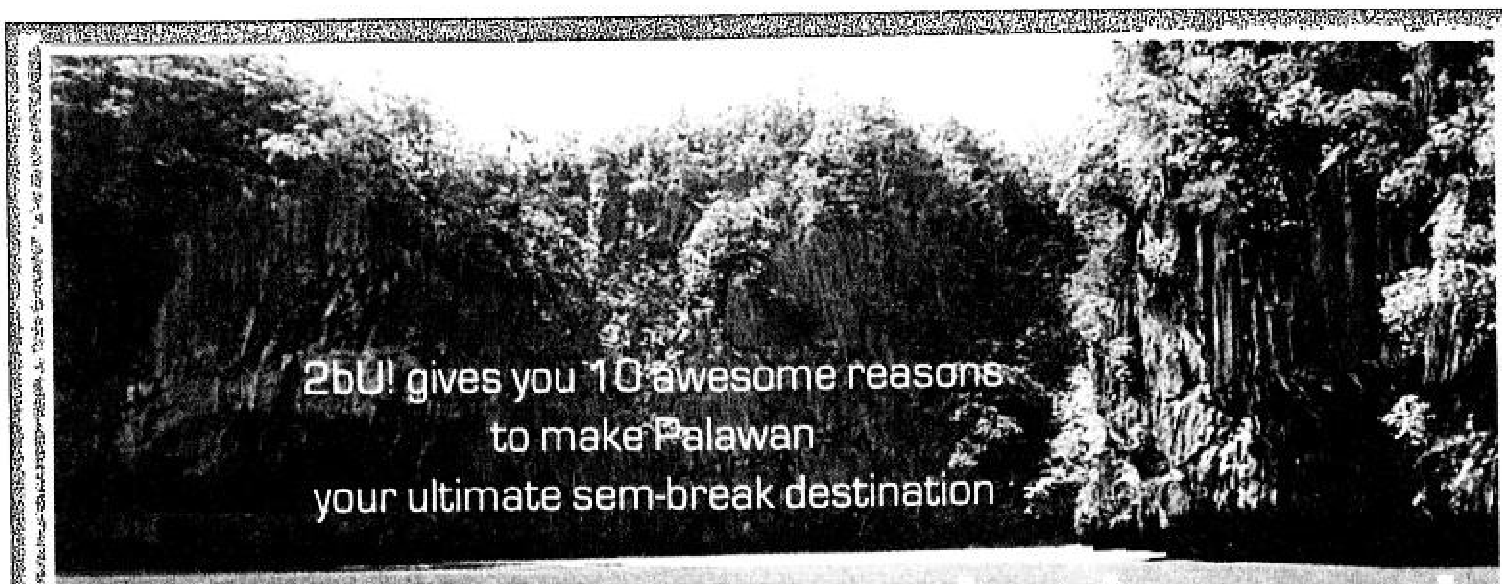

2bU! gives you 10 awesome reasons
to make Palawan
your ultimate sem-break destination

THE AUTHOR (far right) with her companions at the cave lagoon

Treasure Island

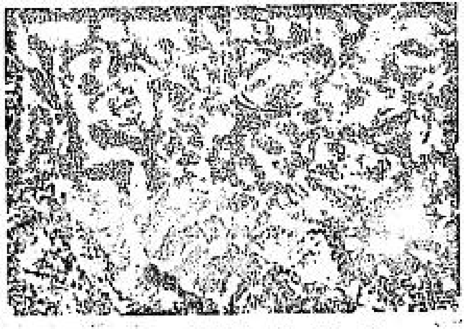
Text and photos by Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

IF YOU THINK GORGEOUS, pristine beaches are all that Palawan has to offer, think again. After all, it's not dubbed as the Philippines' last nature frontier for nothing.

Here's a list of 10 must-see tourist hotspots that will make you want to spend your sem break down south. Believe me, you're in for one awesome adventure.

The Legend Palawan

The Legend Hotel in Puerto Princesa is a good jump-off point if you literally want to be in the middle of all the action. The hotel has its own in-house tour service, called The Legend Palawan Experience (or PaX for short), so all the sightseeing you want to do is literally within reach. It even has "team rooms" for families and *barkada* of 6-12 people who want to save a little moolah. Call 7022700 to 04 or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph.


GIANT *lapu-lapu* in Dalagita Islands

Honda Bay

Bona-fide beach bums who are itching to go island-hopping will definitely make a beeline for Honda Bay, a snorkeling haven that consists of several islets with fertile coral reefs. Dalagita Islands serve as a breeding ground for schools of beautiful fish and gigantic 4-ft *lapu-lapu*. Pandan Island is the perfect picnic/sunbathing spot for beach bums and sun-starved individuals. Its clear blue waters, frolicking fish and blindingly white sand spell great detoxification. Other noteworthy islets are Starfish Island, Snake Island (which is named after its appearance, don't worry) and Luli Island, which stands for "*lulubog, lilitaw*" like what some of the islets in Honda Bay do with the shifting of the tides.

TREASURE/ D3

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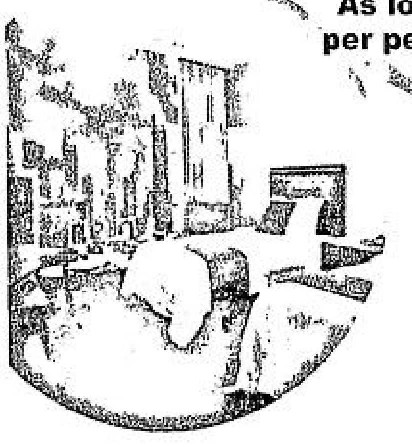
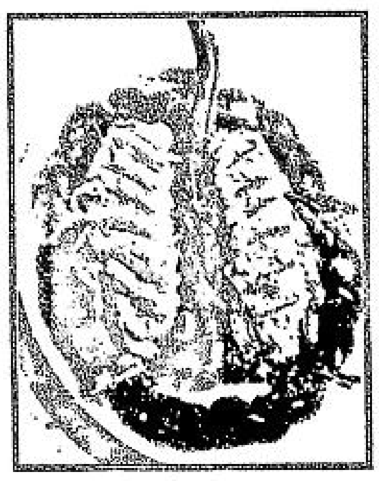



KINUNOT na Pagi

Don't miss this place's gastronomic delights, served straight from the Big Blue

Palawan bounty

A TRUE-BLUE CARnivore like me often orders seafood last. But in Palawan, I found myself happily stuffing my face with it every chance I got.

Whether cooked in the most delectable ways or eaten alive and raw (but thankfully not wriggling), Palawan's cuisine from the sea is as fresh and exotic as they come. Worry about those extra pounds later; indulge in a seafood orgy with these scrumptious dishes.

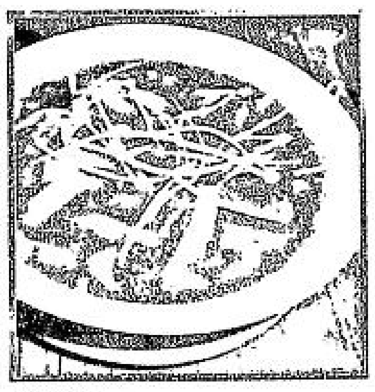
Kinunot na Pagi (Stingray in Coconut Milk)

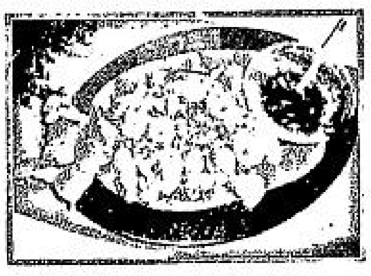
The name can be a bit intimidating, but once you've tasted this slightly spicy dish, you're likely to go back for seconds. And thirds. Available at Tanglaw Restaurant.

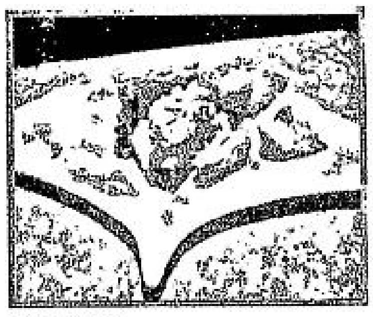
Ginataang Indong (eel)

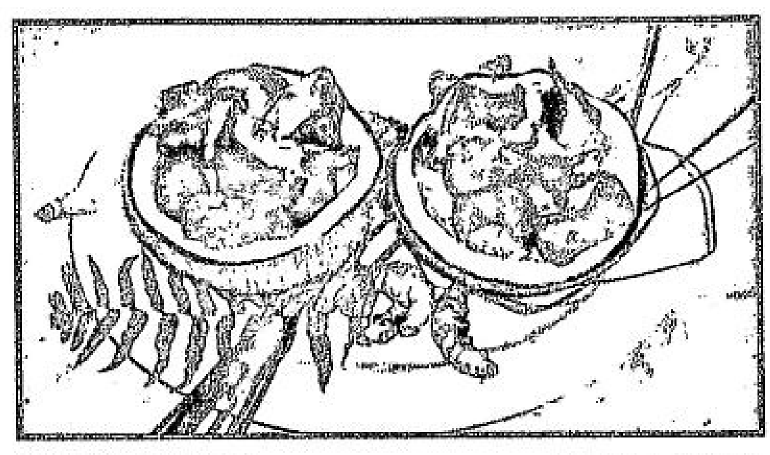
Similar to your regular native *hito* or catfish, but bigger and bonier. That, however, didn't stop us from feasting on this flavorful fish. Also at Tanglaw.

PALAWAN/ D3

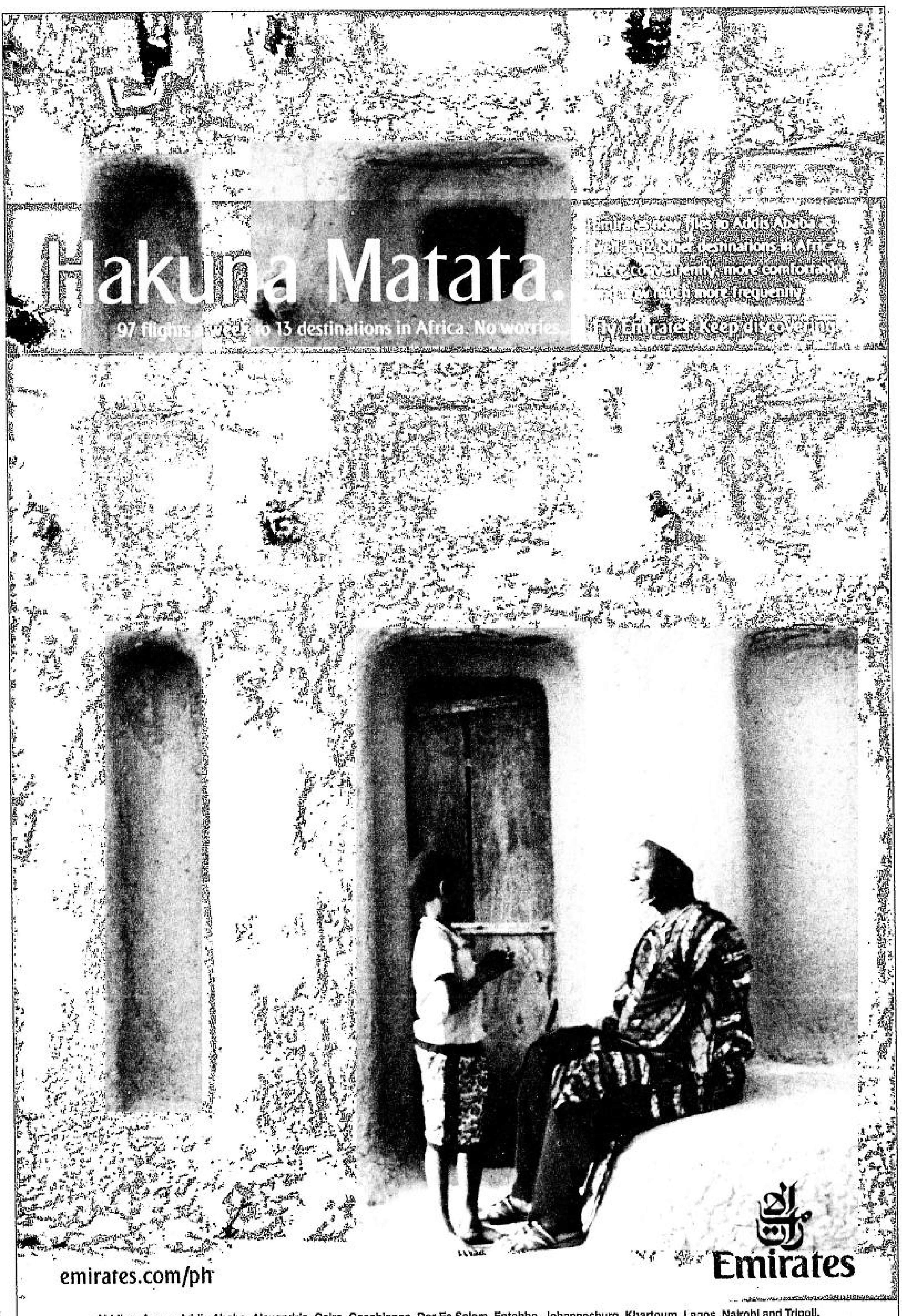

CHAO long


GRILLED Tanigue


ALIGUE Prawns


GINATAANG Indong

PHOTOS BY ANGELA IGNACIO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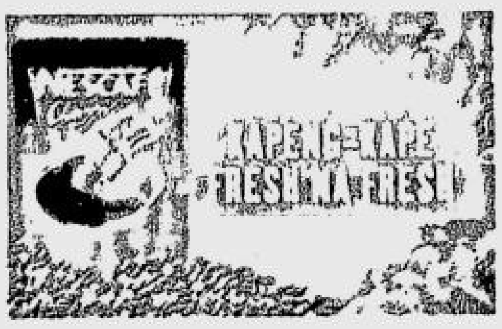
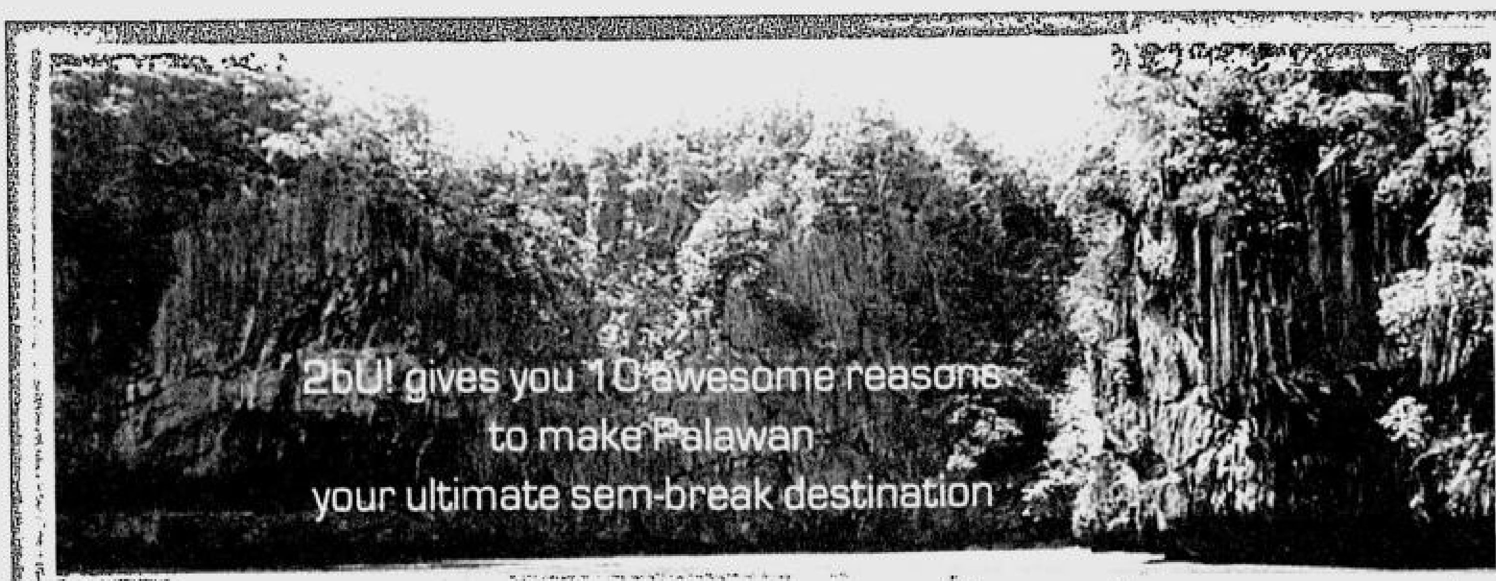
BAGONG AROMA
BAGONG LASA
NEW NESCAFE

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 18, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LifeStyle
2bU! To be you!




2bU! gives you 10 awesome reasons to make Palawan your ultimate sem-break destination

THE AUTHOR (far right) with her companions at the cave lagoon

Treasure island

Text and photos by Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

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The Legend Palawan

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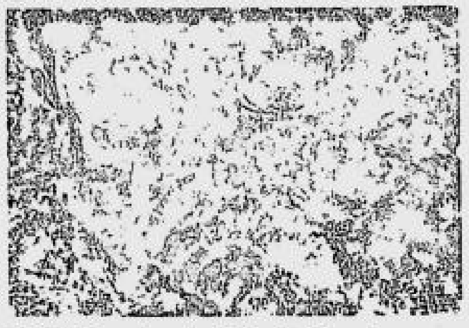
GIANT *lapu-lapu* in Dalagita Islands

Honda Bay

Bona-fide beach bums who are itching to go island-hopping will definitely make a beeline for Honda Bay, a snorkeling haven that consists of several islets with fertile coral reefs. Dalagita Islands serve as a breeding ground for schools of beautiful fish and gigantic 4-ft *lapu-lapu*. Pandan Island is the perfect picnic/sunbathing spot for beach bums and sun-starved individuals. Its clear blue waters, frolicking fish and blindingly white sand spell great detoxification. Other noteworthy islets are Starfish Island, Snake Island (which is named after its appearance, don't worry) and Luli Island, which stands for "*lulubog, lilitaw*" like what some of the islets in Honda Bay do with the shifting of the tides.

TREASURE/ D3

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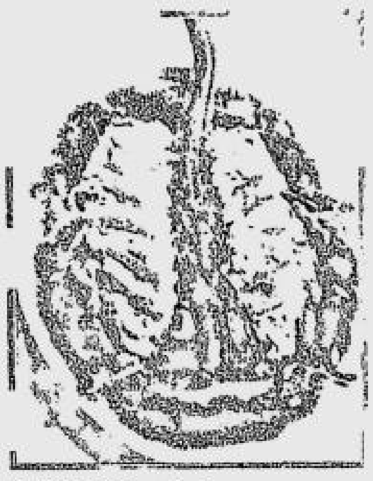
KINUNOT na Pagi

Don't miss this place's gastronomic delights, served straight from the Big Blue

Palawan bounty

A TRUE-BLUE CARnivore like me often orders seafood last. But in Palawan, I found myself happily stuffing my face with it every chance I got.

Whether cooked in the most delectable ways or eaten alive and raw (but thankfully not wriggling), Palawan's cuisine from the sea is as fresh and exotic as they come. Worry about those extra pounds later: indulge in a seafood orgy with these scrumptious dishes.

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The name can be a bit intimidating, but once you've tasted this slightly spicy dish, you're likely to go back for seconds. And thirds. Available at Tanglaw Restaurant.

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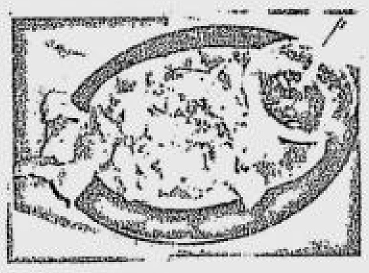
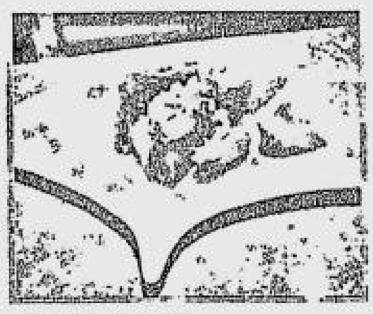
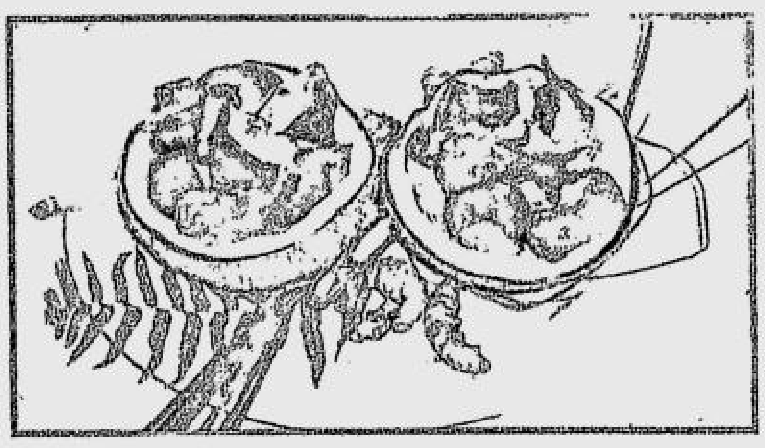
Similar to your regular native *hito* or catfish, but bigger and bonier. That, however, didn't stop us from feasting on this flavorful fish. Also at Tanglaw.

PALAWAN/ D3

CHAO long


GRILLED Tanigue


ALIGUE Prawns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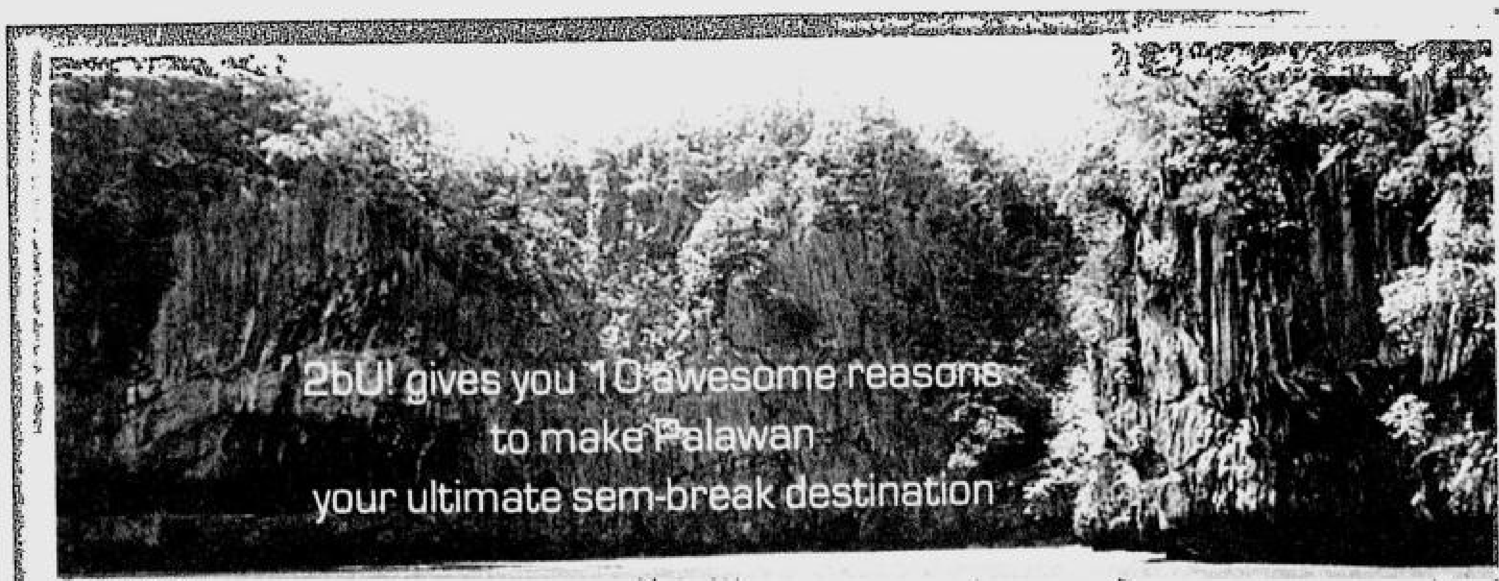
LIFESTYLE

2bU! To be you!

KAPENG-KAPE
FRESH NA FRESH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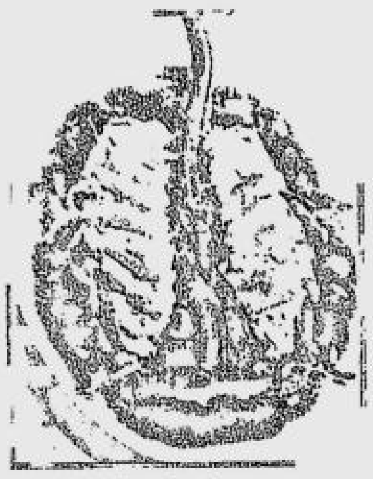
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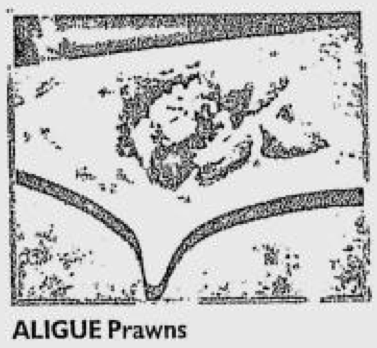
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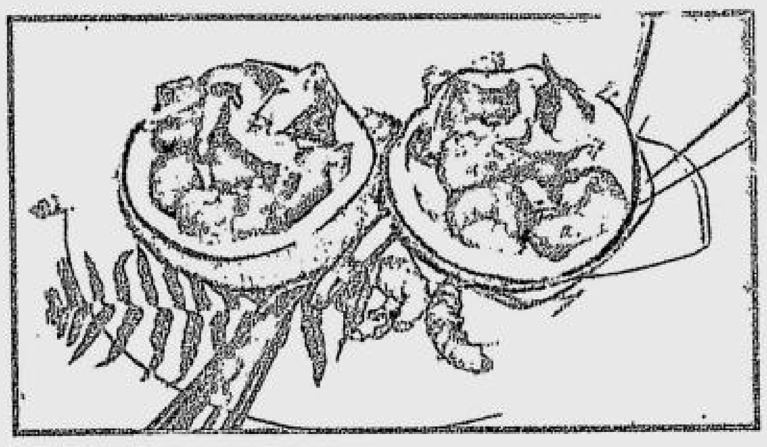
GINATAANG Indong

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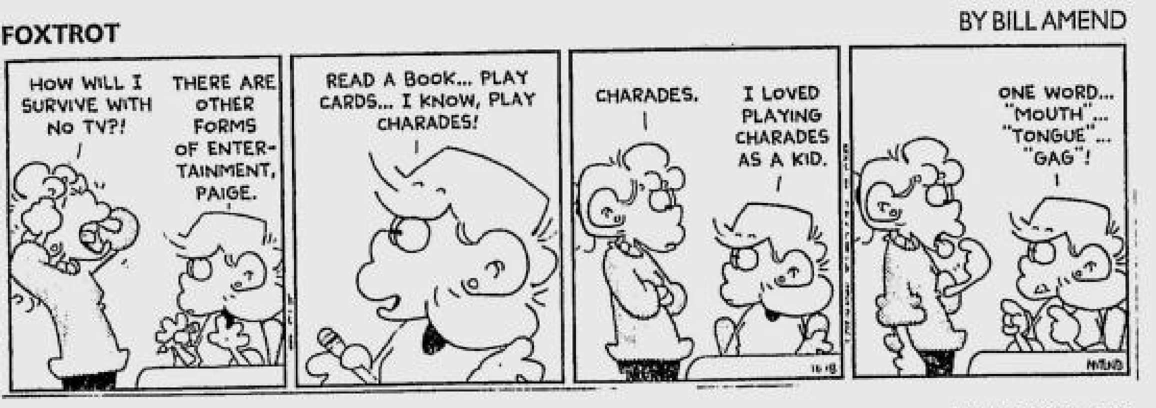
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

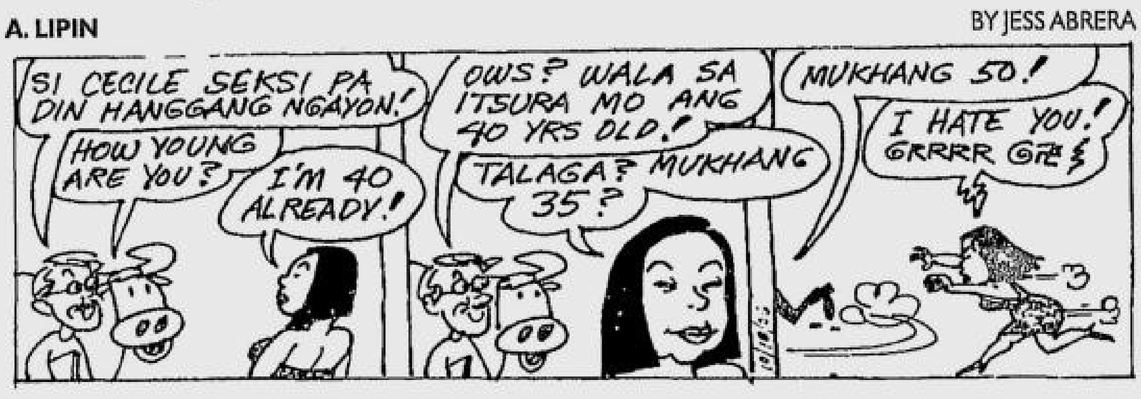
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW WILL I SURVIVE WITH NO TV?!
THERE ARE OTHER FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT, PAIGE.
READ A BOOK... PLAY CARDS... I KNOW, PLAY CHARADES!
CHARADES.
I LOVED PLAYING CHARADES AS A KID.
ONE WORD... "MOUTH"... "TONGUE"... "GAG"!

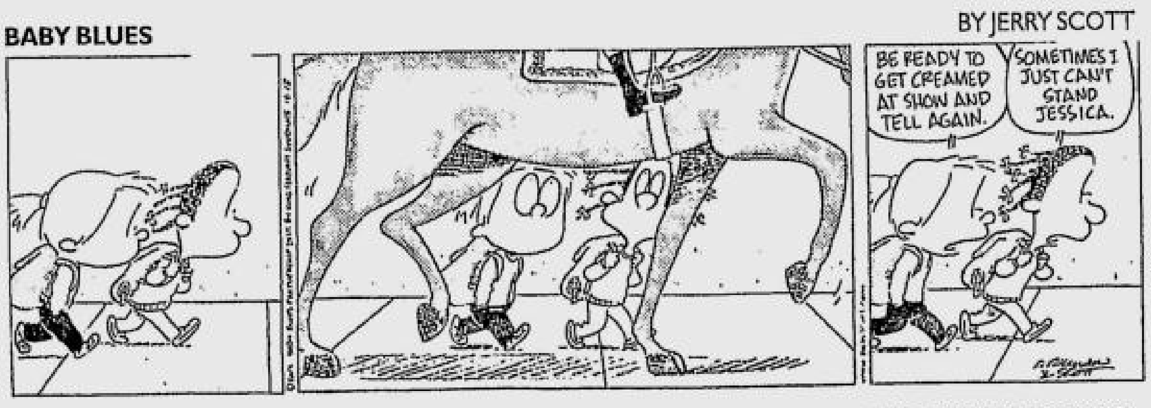
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SI CECILE SEKSI PA DIN HANGGANG NGAYON!
HOW YOUNG ARE YOU?
I'M 40 ALREADY!
OWS? WALA SA ITSURA MO ANG 40 YRS OLD!
TALAGA? MUKHANG 35?
MUKHANG 50!
I HATE YOU! GRRRR GR$

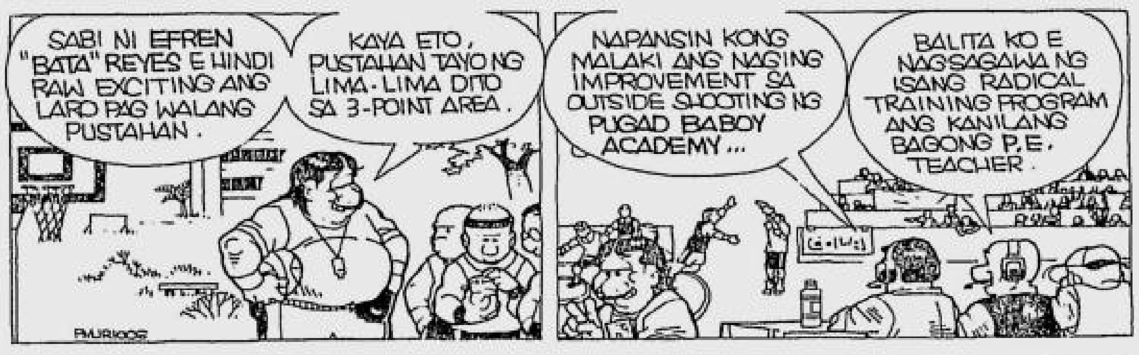
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BE READY TO GET CREAMED AT SHOW AND TELL AGAIN.
SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T STAND JESSICA.

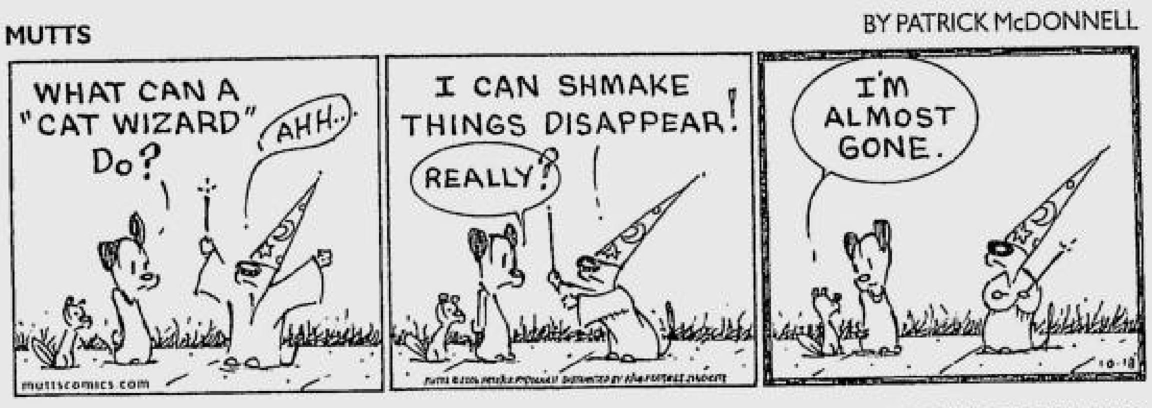
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NI EFREN "BATA" REYES E HINDI RAW EXCITING ANG LARO PAG WALANG PUSTAHAN.
KAYA ETO, PUSTAHAN TAYO NG LIMA-LIMA DITO SA 3-POINT AREA.
NAPANSIN KONG MALAKI ANG NAGING IMPROVEMENT SA OUTSIDE SHOOTING NG PUGAD BABOY ACADEMY...
BALITA KO E NAGSAGAWA NG ISANG RADICAL TRAINING PROGRAM ANG KANILANG BAGONG P.E. TEACHER.

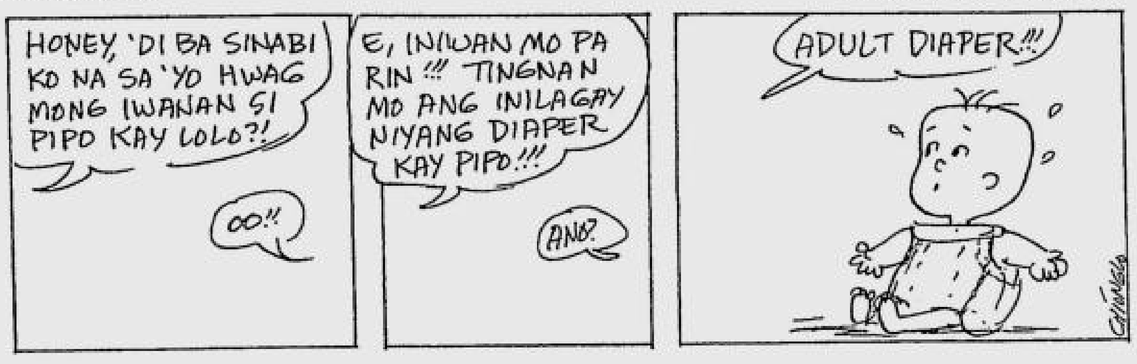
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT CAN A "CAT WIZARD" DO?
AHH..
I CAN SHMAKE THINGS DISAPPEAR!
REALLY?
I'M ALMOST GONE.
muttscomics.com

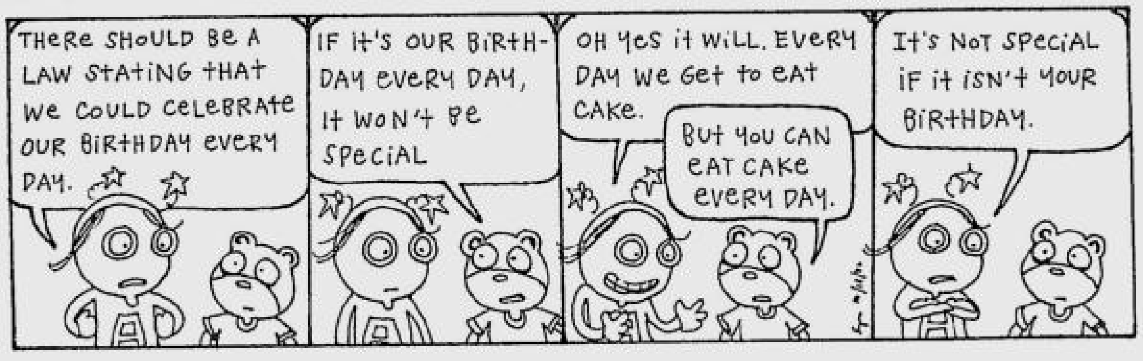
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HONEY, 'DI BA SINABI KO NA SA 'YO HWAG MONG IWANAN SI PIPO KAY LOLO?!
OO!!
E, INIWAN MO PA RIN!!! TINGNAN MO ANG INILAGAY NIYANG DIAPER KAY PIPO!!!
ANO?
ADULT DIAPER!!!

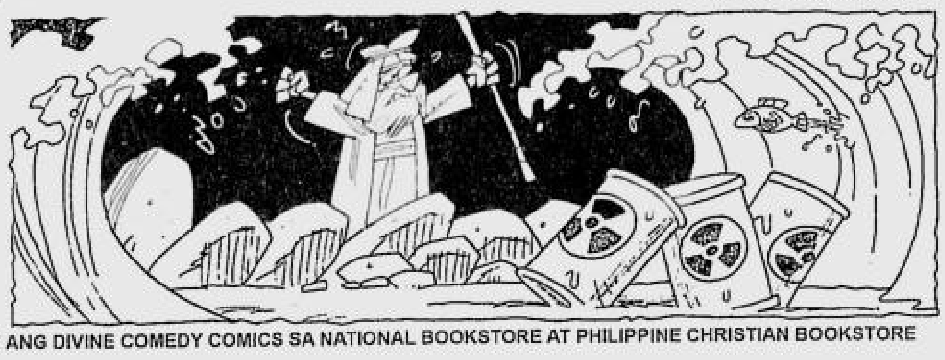
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THERE SHOULD BE A LAW STATING THAT WE COULD CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY EVERY DAY.
IF IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY EVERY DAY, IT WON'T BE SPECIAL
OH YES IT WILL. EVERY DAY WE GET TO EAT CAKE.
BUT YOU CAN EAT CAKE EVERY DAY.
IT'S NOT SPECIAL IF IT ISN'T YOUR BIRTHDAY.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

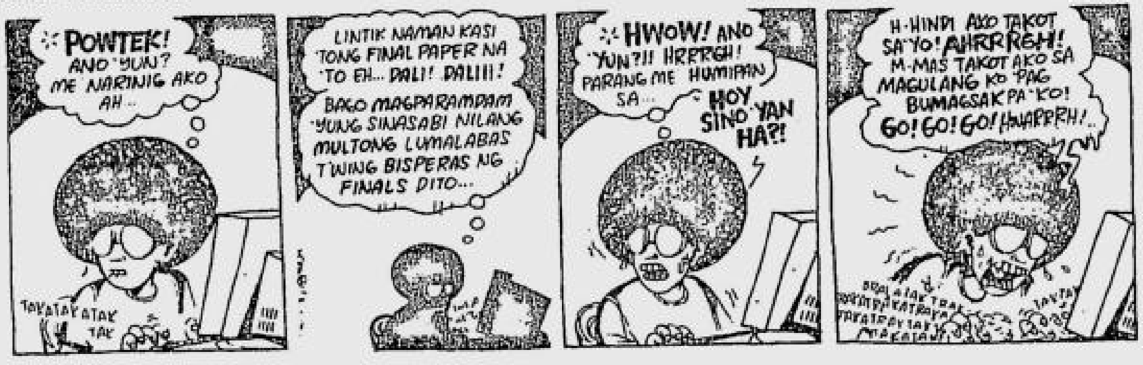


HINATI NI MOSES ANG DAGAT NA MALAPIT SA SUBIC BAY. NAGULAT SYA SA KANYANG NATUKLASAN ......

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

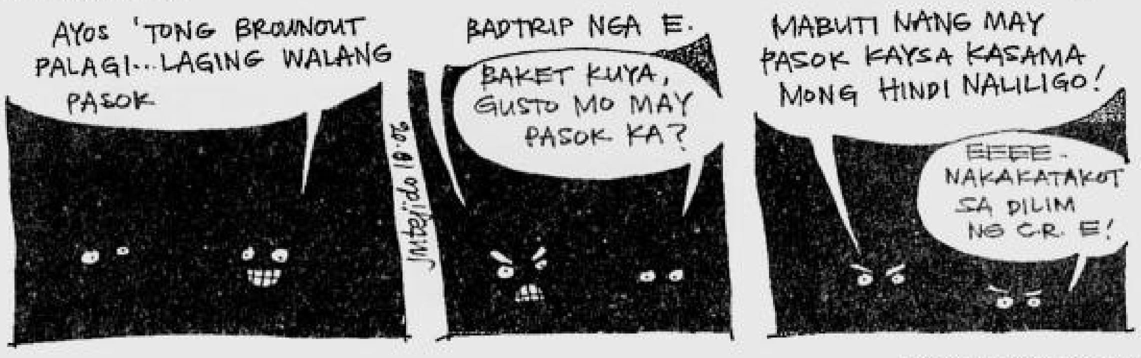
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


POWTEK! ANO 'YUN? ME NARINIG AKO AH...
TAKATAKATAK TAK
LINTIK NAMAN KASI 'TONG FINAL PAPER NA 'TO EH... DALI! DALI!!
BAGO MAGPARAMDAM 'YUNG SINASABI NILANG MULTONG LUMALABAS T'WING BISPERAS NG FINALS DITO...
HWOW! ANO 'YUN?!! HRRRGH! PARANG ME HUMIPAN SA...
HOY SINO 'YAN HA?!
H-HINDI AKO TAKOT SA'YO! AHRRRGH! M-MAS TAKOT AKO SA MAGULANG KO 'PAG BUMAGSAK PA 'KO! GO! GO! GO! HWARRRH!..

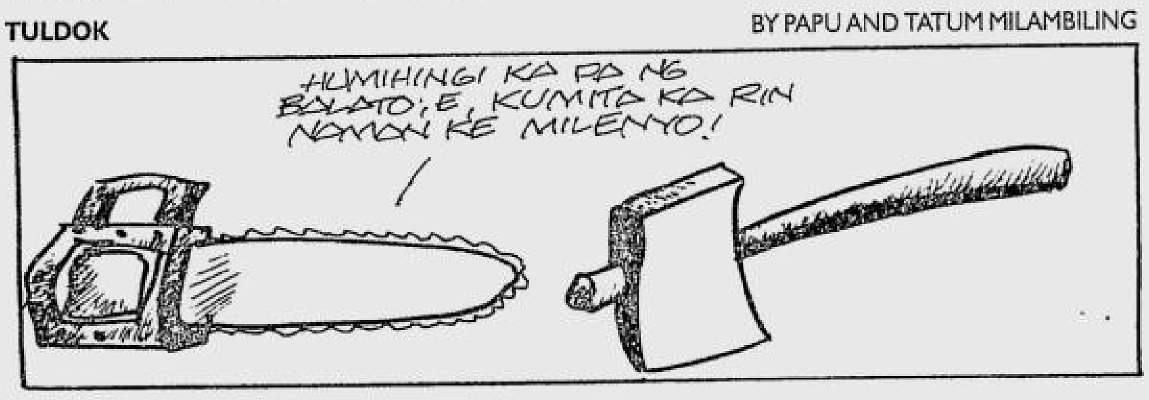
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AYOS 'TONG BROWNOUT PALAGI... LAGING WALANG PASOK
BADTRIP NGA E.
BAKET KUYA, GUSTO MO MAY PASOK KA?
MABUTI NANG MAY PASOK KAYSA KASAMA MONG HINDI NALILIGO!
EEEE- NAKAKATAKOT SA DILIM NG C.R. E!

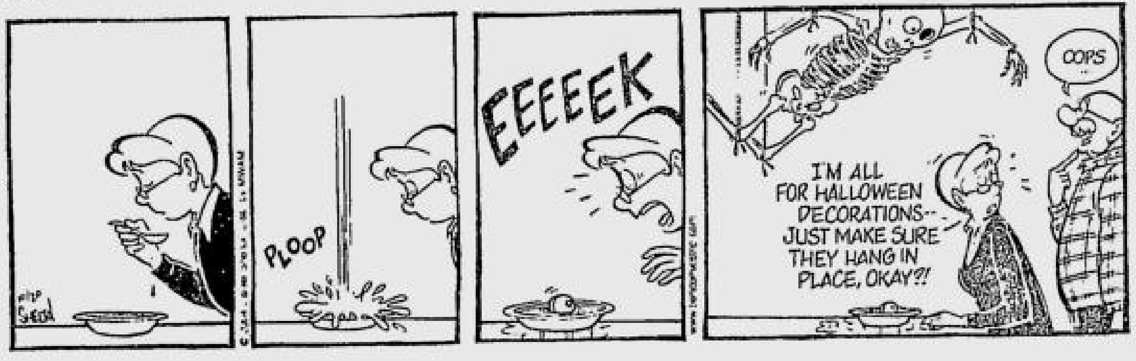
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HUMIHINGI KA PA NG BALATO; E, KUMITA KA RIN NAMAN KE MILENYO!

BEN

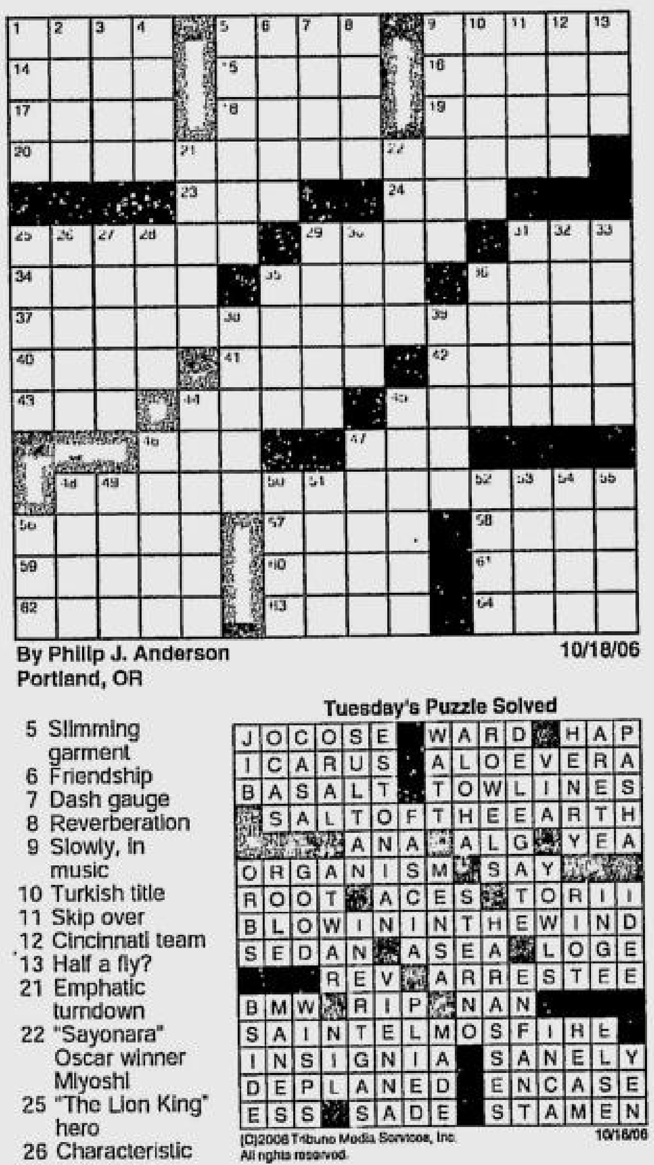
BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLOOP
EEEEEK
OOPS
I'M ALL FOR HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS-- JUST MAKE SURE THEY HANG IN PLACE, OKAY?!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Latent spy
5 Portal
9 Nautically to the left
14 Spoken
15 Colorful Apple
16 "South Pacific" extras?
17 Slight of build
18 Wealthy
19 Word to the audience
20 Philosopher's doubts?
23 Tarzan Ron
24 Mama __!
25 Tried hard
29 Hydrox rival
31 Trifling amount
34 Seething
35 Black Hawk War participants
36 Copenhagen native
37 Philanthropist's doubts?
40 Unfair preference
41 Corrida cries
42 Shoptalk
43 NCAA word
44 Book jacket info
45 "__ Fideles"
46 Shell product
47 Eminem's Dr.
48 Rat fink's doubts?
56 Barely sufficient
57 Actress Gershon
58 Leon Uris novel, "__ 18"
59 Baseball manager Joe
60 Pizzeria need
61 State boldly
62 Computer command
63 Got up
64 Long skirt

DOWN
1 Playwright Hart
2 Heraldic border
3 Secular
4 Tarzan Lincoln
5 Slimming garment
6 Friendship
7 Dash gauge
8 Reverberation
9 Slowly, in music
10 Turkish title
11 Skip over
12 Cincinnati team
13 Half a fly?
21 Emphatic turndown
22 "Sayonara" Oscar winner Miyoshi
25 "The Lion King" hero
26 Characteristic
27 Indian prince
28 Platte River people
29 Desert springs
30 Bad hair pieces
31 Viper's weapon
32 Fort Knox bar
33 "Beau __"
35 Farm tower
36 Dreadful
38 Slightly wet
39 "Star Wars" villain
44 Repartee
45 Known by few
46 Literary category
47 Units of force
48 PC picture
49 Zip about
50 Composer Stravinsky
51 Digital recorder
52 Islamic scholar
53 God of destruction
54 Holm oak
55 Delhi garb
56 Fr. holy woman



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/18/06

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

J	O	C	O	S	E	■	W	A	R	D	■	H	A	P
I	C	A	R	U	S	■	A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A
B	A	S	A	L	T	■	T	O	W	L	I	N	E	S
■	S	A	L	T	O	F	T	H	E	E	A	R	T	H
■	■	■	■	A	N	A	■	A	L	G	■	Y	E	A
O	R	G	A	N	I	S	M	■	S	A	Y	■	■	■
R	O	O	T	■	A	C	E	S	■	T	O	R	I	I
B	L	O	W	I	N	I	N	T	H	E	W	I	N	D
S	E	D	A	N	■	A	S	E	A	■	L	O	G	E
■	■	■	R	E	V	■	A	R	R	E	S	T	E	E
B	M	W	■	R	I	P	■	N	A	N	■	■	■	■
S	A	I	N	T	E	L	M	O	S	F	I	R	E	■
I	N	S	I	G	N	I	A	■	S	A	N	E	L	Y
D	E	P	L	A	N	E	D	■	E	N	C	A	S	E
E	S	S	■	S	A	D	E	■	S	T	A	M	E	N

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10/18/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have such a strong personality, you inspire others. Your imagination and your bold way of doing things is a constant influence to those around you. You're interested in many things, and you like to be where the action is. In your later years, you'll adore travel. This year you will finish something you've been involved with for a decade. **Birthdate of:** Laura Nyro, singer/songwriter; Chuck Berry, musician; Dawn Wells, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to form partnerships or sign contracts. You're very levelheaded and on top of your scene. Others see you as a calm voice of reason

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can get a lot done at work today. It will be easy to concentrate on routine tasks for a long period of time. It's an excellent day for business and commerce

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for couples and parents to discuss the practical aspects of raising children. Similarly, people working in the arts can arrive at practical, solid solutions today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Sit down with siblings, relatives and neighbors to work out practical solutions to whatever problems are at hand. You easily see what needs to be addressed

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for financial matters and all business transactions. Your concern is very realistic and sensible, which, of course, is the best way to do business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Whatever you spend money on today will be something that is practical and long-lasting. You want good value for your money spent!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Group standards and the approval of others matter to you today. You want to do the right thing. Someone older or more experienced will guide you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You find it quite easy to be selfless today. You don't mind putting the needs of others before your own. Good; you get gratification from being of service to others

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Work with friends and groups to accomplish something important today. Older people might give you wise advice. This is good—never shun a dependable tip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might develop a crush on someone older today, especially a boss or someone in authority. (First, you want this person's advice; then, you want his or her admiration!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Finalize the details for travel plans today or plans to return to school. It will all work out. You won't overlook anything. You're concerned with the practical aspects of everything.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's easy to be giving to others today. However, someone might want to give you something practical and long-lasting. Be open to this generosity, especially from someone older.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				1		8	2	
5			9	6				
8			3					
						3	9	
3	9						4	5
	2	1						
					2			6
				9	6			7
	5	9		4				

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/18

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	7	4	5	9	8	6	2
4	8	2	7	6	1	5	9	3
6	9	5	3	8	2	7	4	1
7	5	6	9	1	8	2	3	4
8	4	1	2	7	3	6	5	9
9	2	3	5	4	6	1	8	7
2	6	9	8	3	7	4	1	5
5	7	8	1	9	4	3	2	6
3	1	4	6	2	5	9	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★

MANGROVE forest

RETURN to the blue lagoon

AT THE MOUTH of the cave

Treasure island

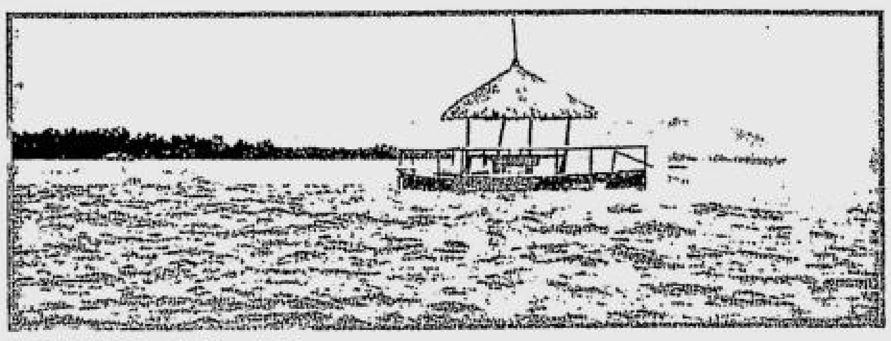
Subterranean River National Park

Nature lovers will find Palawan's ecological wonders absolutely breathtaking. The Subterranean River National Park was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1999. The jump-off point is Sabang Wharf, which is about a two-hour drive from Puerto Princesa, then it's off to the park via pump boat. Once inside the majestic caves, the park's friendly ferrymen are only too happy to give tourists a crash course in geology as they shine their giant flashlights on limestone formations and stalactites in the shape of saints, vegetables and anything else that comes to your mind. Add to that the hordes of bats and the wet, pitch-black interior, and this is definitely the place to let your imagination run wild. A word of advice: Try not to keep your mouths open for too long, as not everything that trickles down is water.

The park strictly enforces a "No Permit, No Entry" policy, so make sure you register first. Note: Beware of the food-stealing monkeys! Call the park office at (048) 4332409 or e-mail at ppsrnp@mozcom.com.

Mangrove National Park

The Mangrove National Park is another famous attraction. Here, you can plant some mangrove saplings and "leave your legacy" for the next generation. The tour also includes a paddle boat ride, where you can ask your boatman (or boatwoman) to sing native songs for you while rowing. Don't forget to slather on some serious mosquito repellant, as those little suckers can get pretty vicious.


FLOATING hut in Honda Bay

The mangrove trees are also home to the famous *tamilok* or woodworm, which is Palawan's (in)famous *pulutan*. Resembling a giant white slug, it is best eaten straight out of the tree and dipped in vinegar. Not for the faint of heart, since it's supposed to be eaten raw.

Galeri Kamarikutan

Galeri Kamarikutan is an art gallery-cum-café where nature and art coexist in tranquil harmony. With its indigenous interior, sprawling gardens and magnificent local artwork, the place has an almost mystical feel to it. We frustrated spook hunters tried to capture spirits with our cameras at night, and we definitely got more than what we bargained for.

While enjoying the atmosphere, don't forget to try the place's yummy *inihaw* fare, refreshing pandan iced tea and light dessert. If you're lucky enough, you can catch art classes held by noted local artists. Call (048) 4335182 or e-mail kamarikutanart@gmail.com.

Kinabuchs Bar and Restaurant

Located just a few blocks from The Legend Hotel, Kinabuchs stays open till the wee hours of the morning, so it makes for a great place to chill out and relax. You've never really been to Palawan if you haven't tried the *tamilok*, which is the house specialty. You might find it reassuring that despite its, uh, unpleasant appearance, the *tamilok* actually tastes like oysters, but with a slightly woody aftertaste.

Local market

If you want to buy the freshest, biggest seafood this side of Luzon, take a tricycle to the local market. The stalls there also sell Palawan delicacies for *pasalubong*, such as cashew products, green honey, Vietnamese dried jackfruit (highly addictive), yummy Palawan *longganisa* and *lamayo*. Don't worry about bringing home smelly luggage, as the vendors can pack your purchases in sealed boxes for a small price.

Tanglaw Restaurant and Azotea

The Legend's own restaurant not only offers all-day buffet courses, but it also boasts of à la carte specialty dishes that are as mouthwatering as they are exotic. Also within the hotel, Azotea is a mini-bar that's great for chilling out with a glass of wine or two. Try the cashew wine for a different kick to your *inuman* sessions.

Viet Ville Restaurant

The settlers might be gone, but lucky for us food fanatics, they still serve authentic French-Vietnamese cuisine in the form of spicy *chao long* or *pho* noodles, spring rolls and the famous baguettes that sell for P6 (yes, P6) each.

Taraw Lodge

This lodge near the Park serves grilled food, freshly harvested seaweed and *buko* juice. One-room *nipa* huts can be rented for as low as P450 a day for vacationistas who want some serious sunbathing. Watch out for the adorable golden Labrador, he'll follow you wherever you go!

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net.

Palawan

From page D1

Adobong Sugpo sa Taba ng Talangka (Aligue Prawns)

My favorite Tanglaw dish so far, aside from the stingray. This one comes strongly recommended, but literally not for the faint-hearted.

Seafood Kare-Kare

If you love fattening food but have to watch those cholesterol levels, Tanglaw's spin on the usual *kare-kare* is a perfect alternative. Easy on the *bagoong*, though!

Inihaw na Tanigue

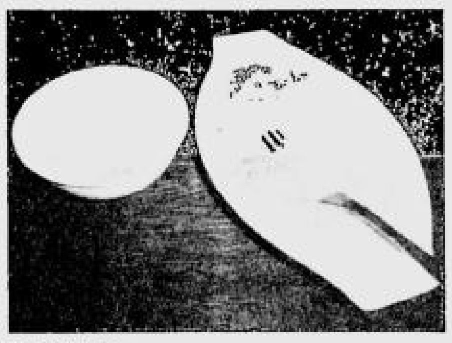
Galeri Kamarikutan's breezy, artsy ambience adds flavor to its excellent grilled food, especially the grilled *tanigue*. Even meat lovers will find it irresistible, especially when dipped in vinegar and soy sauce with red pepper.

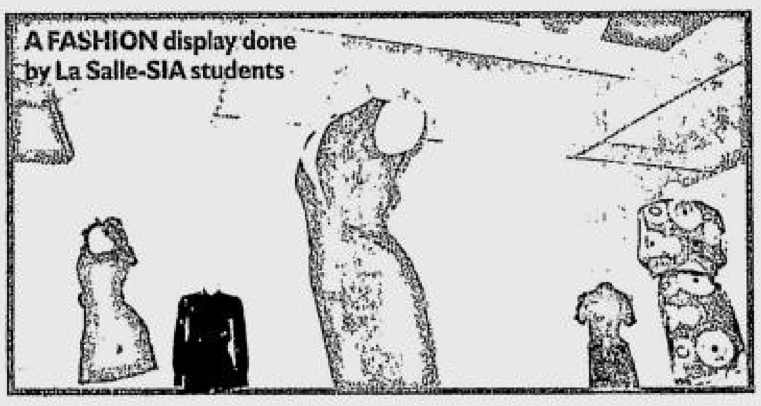
Lamayo

Lamayo is Palawan's version of *dinaing na danggit*, but air-dried and marinated instead of sun-dried. This usually makes for a good take-home treat for your weight-watching loved ones.

Tamilok

Don't let its fat, slimy, grayish white appearance fool you. It's not actually a worm, but a type of wood-boring mollusk that makes for a great *pulutan* dish. Watch out for the burps, though, they can get pretty nasty. *Angela Ignacio*


TAMILOK


A FASHION display done by La Salle-SIA students

Learning . . .

From page D4

The perks: The only professional academy in Singapore dedicated to culinary arts is also located in a beautiful national park with a historical spice garden first started by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1822. Apart from being taught by a world-class faculty, students are also guaranteed work experience at top five-star hotels, restaurants and food service companies, and many of its graduates have found posts in reputable companies abroad.

Contact information: E-mail academy@at-sunrice.com or visit www.at-sunrice.com

La Salle-SIA College of the Arts

About it: Singapore's publicly funded arts and design institution, and Asia Pacific's leading arts institution, is the region's only integrated arts campus. Its 1,700 students from across the globe benefit from interdisciplinary interaction and a holistic approach to learning.

The perks: The school emphasizes the creative life. Apart from having an excellent curriculum (fashion dance, theater, music, painting, design, new media, sculpture), creative minds are greatly inspired—and it shows in the funky outfits the students wear to school every day. The school has the largest contemporary art gallery in Singapore. Its staff and graduates have also been involved in high-profile international events like the Venice Biennale (Italy), Smirnoff International Fashion Awards (New York), the Royal Ballet (UK), among many others.

Contact information: E-mail applications.io@lasallesia.edu.sg or visit www.lasallesia.edu.sg

Tourism Academy @ Sentosa

About it: Located at Sentosa, the Tourism Academy provides an apt setting for learning and action-classrooms where conventional teaching is conducted and business outlets around the resort island become training grounds for students to apply what they have learned.

The perks: The tranquil setting of the island allows students to focus on their studies and at the same time enjoy the hotels, restaurant, pubs and golf clubs. The school's compulsory student internship program also allows students to get hands-on experience within the industry. After the two-year diploma program, students interested in pursuing bachelor degrees overseas have direct entry to top universities in Australia, Canada, the USA and the UK.

Contact information: E-mail tourismacademy@tp.edu.sg or visit www.tourismacademy.edu.sg

Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) International

About it: Set up 120 years ago, this elite government-registered and publicly funded high school offers a westernized education system with a bilingual focus on English and Chinese. Its curriculum is designed with an international mind-set and is recognized worldwide as a premium pathway to global tertiary education.

The perks: Its brand of education was based on founder Bishop William Oldham's vision to develop well-rounded students, excelling academically, physically, socially and spiritually. Thus, all students are encouraged to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which emphasizes the development of personal skills and community service. ACS is also one of the few high schools that's WiFi-ready.

Contact information: E-mail ivy.teo@acsinternational.com.sg or visit www.acsinternational.com.sg

For more information, visit the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines at the 17/F, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Call 8130946 or 8134968. Visit singaporeedu.gov.sg

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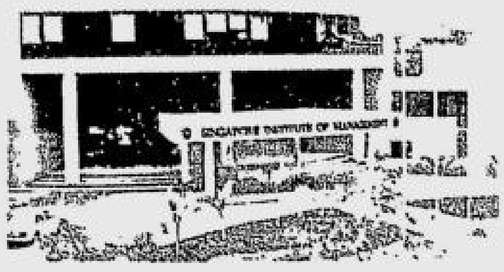
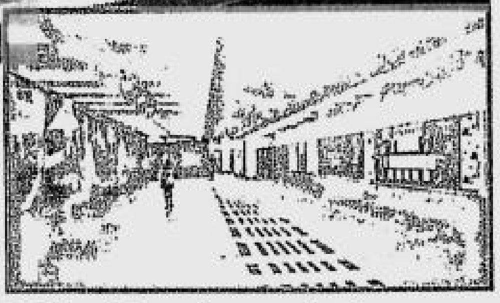
Learning, Singapore-style

Singapore beckons to Filipino students with its roster of quality universities

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent



ANGLO-CHINESE School International (above); and Singapore Institute of Management (left)



SMU's pristine underground walkway that connects its various buildings

TODAY, MORE AND MORE STUDENTS are deciding to pursue their education abroad. Apart from attaining top-notch education, they learn to grapple with experiences that go beyond the classroom walls, thereby fostering independence and maturity.

The past several years, many Filipino students have seen Singapore as an ideal place to study. Apart from being one of the most prolific hubs in Asia, it boasts of standards at par with those in the USA and Europe—while being closer to home.

According to Singapore Education, a bureau under the Singapore Tourism Board, 70,000 students from 70 different countries are currently enrolled in various universities in Singapore. Filipino students in Singapore fall into two categories: those that enter in the primary or secondary level, usually from 7-16 years old, and those undertaking postgraduate degrees like MBAs (though there is also an increasing number entering specialized schools like culinary and arts institutions).

2bU! visited Singapore's top schools to get a feel of what they offer:

Singapore Management University (SMU)

About it: The country's first private university funded by the government is modeled after the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Its curriculum aims to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs to excel in a rapidly changing world.

The perks: Foreign students receive 65 percent subsidy from the government—and that's without scholarship yet! (For scholars, tuition is free, but you may have to work in a registered Singapore company for three years upon graduation.) The school also offers exchange programs with its partner universities, Wharton or Carnegie Mellon. Credits earned there are transferable to SMU. Plus, this high-tech school has an underground tunnel (lined with Watson's, Kopitiam and several beauty stores) that links the different buildings together, so you can beat the heat and the rain when going to your next class!

Contact information: E-mail admissions@smu.edu.sg or visit www.smu.edu.sg

Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)

About it: The country's premier management and human resource development organization is a partner of eight prestigious international universities and offers over 50 academic programs.

The perks: Recently awarded "university" status by the Singaporean government—the first for a private institution—the school offers exchange programs with its partners George Washington University, University of London, University of Sydney, among others.

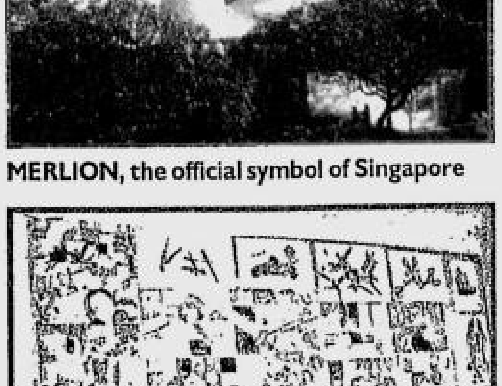
Contact information: E-mail student_recruitment@unisim.edu.sg or visit www.unisim.edu.sg

at-sunrice, the Singapore Culinary Academy and Spice Garden

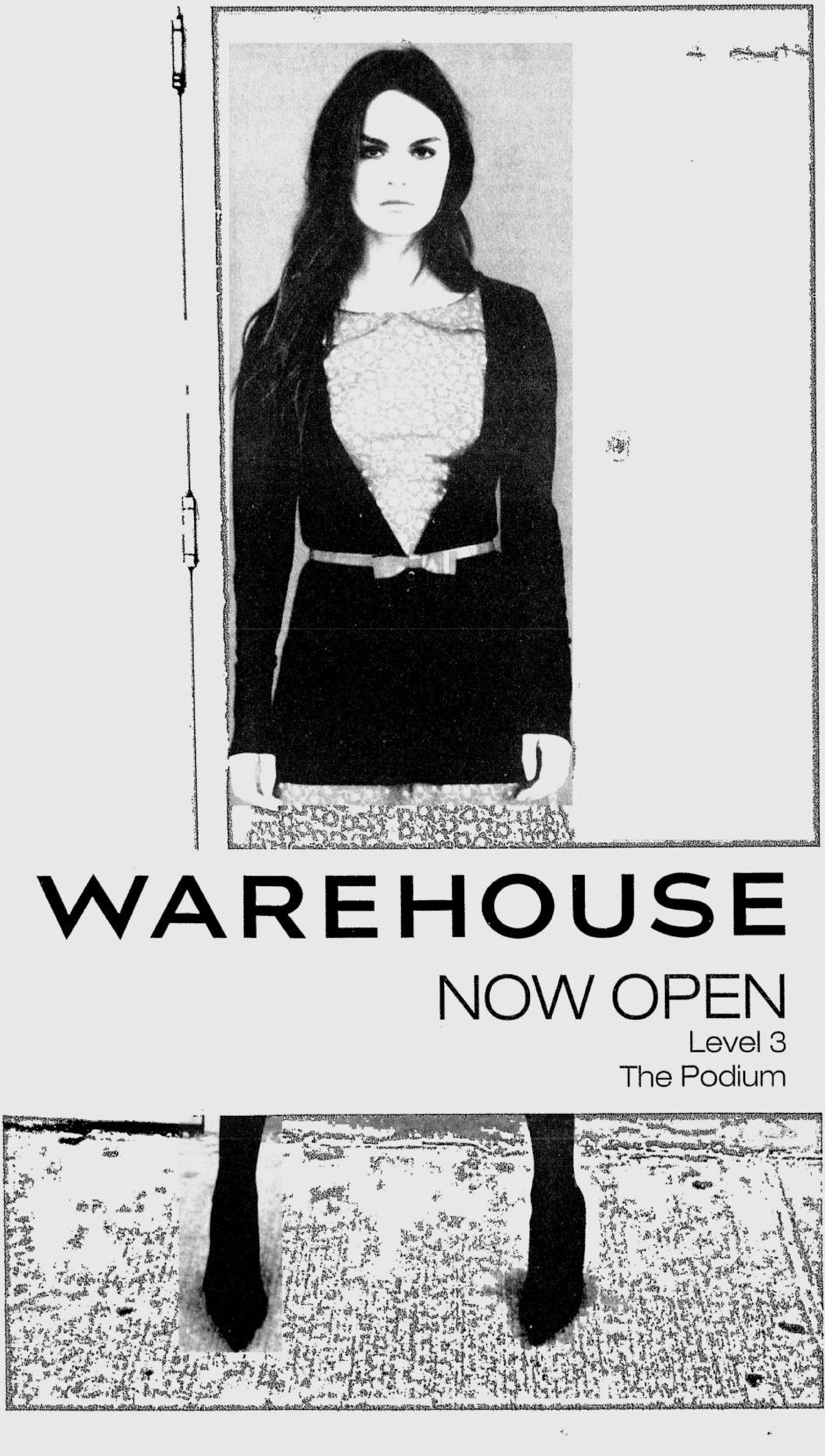
About it: at-sunrice delivers formal education from both the East and West and fuses Old and New World cuisines. It also provides work and study rotations at top hotels, restaurants and luxury homes.

LEARNING/ D3

MERLION, the official symbol of Singapore



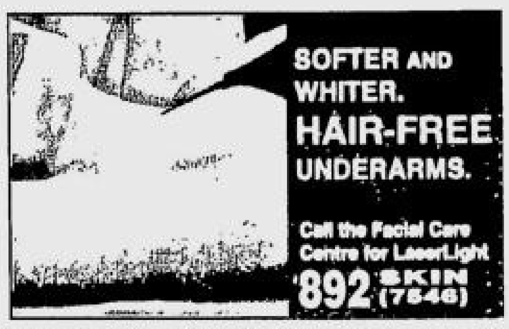
ARTWORK by students of ACS International



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph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Indie filmmaker cries censorship

By Marinel R. Cruz

AN INDEPENDENT FILMmaker who was part of the 16-man team that flew to Guimaras Island to shoot short films on the oil spill disaster charged ABC 5 of censorship after the network aired the team's works last week.

Speaking during the premiere of "Guimaras: Short Films from the Oil Spill" at the digital theater of Robinsons Galleria in Quezon City on Friday, Bacolod-based filmmaker JP Carpio said "specific and key portions of the film involving the residents of Guimaras expressing their honest feelings ... were censored."

Carpio said the censorship "destroys the very reason all the films were made—to help give Guimaras and its people a voice, to help show their perspective."

Carpio and 15 other filmmakers were invited by the newly formed Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC) to shoot a 10-minute film each to create awareness on the environmental crisis in Western Visayas. Four-minute versions of the movies were aired on ABC 5's current affairs program "Shorts" on Oct. 8.

According to Carpio, he submitted a six-minute version of his short film "Bunker O: Sumirib" as requested by the show's production

INDIE/ E3

JP CARPIO

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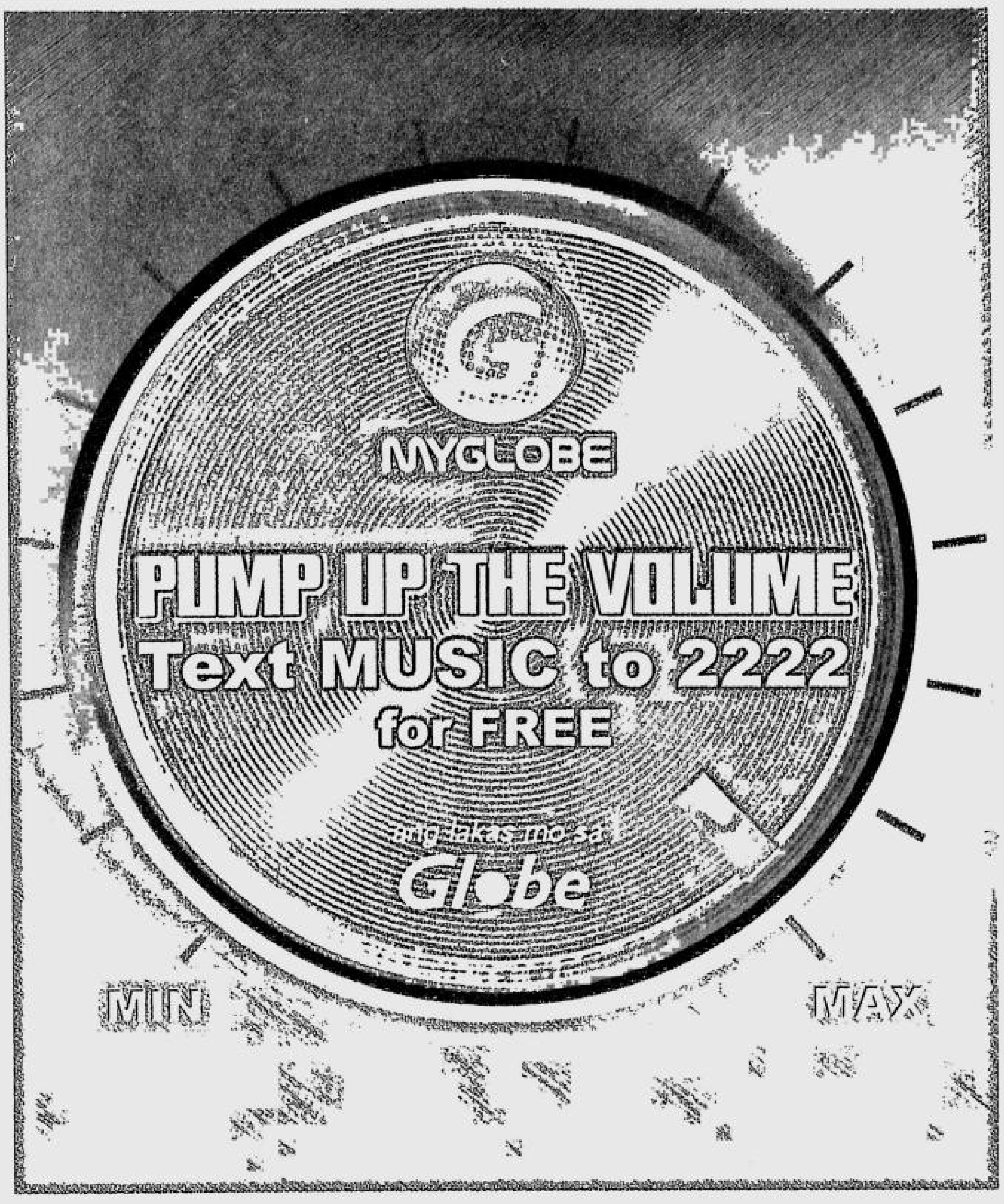
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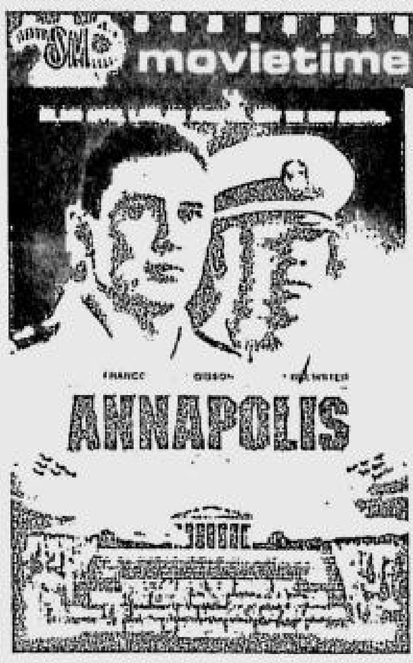

Jake Huard (James Franco) gets a chance to study at the prestigious Naval Academy at Annapolis and just do everything to keep himself inside, as institution boasts of a 137-year old history of focused discipline and determined excellence.

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SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

TILL I MET YOU
BARANG
THE DEPARTED
TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 STEP UP
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TXT
8 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT
5 THE DEPARTED
6 BARANG
7 RESERVED
8 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 SCOOP
2 BARANG
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
PULSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

DEAD OR ALIVE
TILL I MET YOU
BARANG
TALLADEGA NIGHTS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME

Event Calendar

CreativeXchange presents

Rex Navarrete

99.9% SERIOUSLY JOKING

October 20, 2006 • 8:30 pm

MEGAMALL Cinema 10

Tickets at
Orch. Center P800 Balc. Center P500
Orch. Sides P500 Balc. Sides P300

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-9999, Creative Exchange at 722-4757 or 722-7223

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

OPENING TODAY

From page E6

among the last of the 20 survivors pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone describes it as "a cautious, earnestly factual and emotionally unassailable film … a salute to heroes who could have easily walked away." Desson Thomson of Washington Post comments that although the film is "long on veneration … and scrupulous in portraying details … it short-changes audiences when it comes to dramatic revelations … It telegraphs its emotions loud and clear, but somehow they don't reach us." Gene Seymour of Newsday calls it "Stone's most evocative and searing filmmaking."

Employee of the Month

STARS JESSICA Simpson, Dane Cook, Dax Shepard, Andy Dick. Directed by Greg Coolidge

Two supermarket rivals (Shepard and Cook) compete for the affections of a new workmate (Simpson) who, according to the grapevine, is hopelessly enamored with "Employee of the Month" winners. Elizabeth Weitzman of New York Daily News complains that it "offers long, slow stretches lightened by a few laughs and some oddball characters … And while Simpson's two most impressive assets are amply displayed, they are neither talent nor timing." Luke Y. Thompson of E! Online is similarly disappointed: "Every time you think it might be going into twisted territory, it pulls back and does the conventional thing." Claudia Puig of USA Today points out that "[Simpson has] two expressions: awkward simpering and clumsy pouting."

The Banquet

STARS ZHANG ZIYI, Daniel Wu, Ge You, Zhou Xun, Ma Jingwu. Directed by Feng Xiaogang.

Loosely based on "Hamlet" and "Macbeth," this $20-million period costume drama had its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival and is touted as China's entry in the Oscar race. Derek Elley of Variety thinks it's a "visually opulent but stately and stygian drama … Main problem is Zhang … Role requires a more experienced, older actress." Dan Fainaru of Screendaily is also unimpressed: "Staunch in its belief that bigger is better … (it) piles up enough condiments for a dozen meals but never really tries to cook them into one satisfying repast." Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter rhetorically asks: "What if someone threw a fabulous banquet and forgot the food? (It's) a clichéd, long-winded, logic-busting, overacted … parody of the martial-arts genre."

Indie filmmaker . . .

From page E1

staff. But in an e-mail Carpio sent to friends the day after the airing, he said the four-minute version the network showed "was horribly compromised. [It] was not my film ... I disown that film."

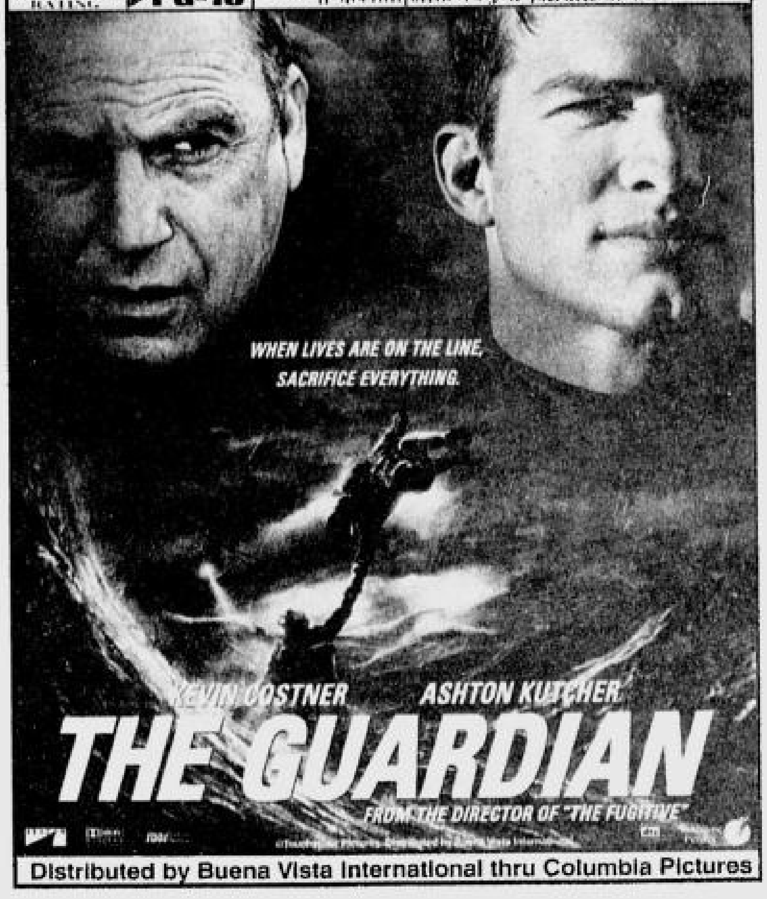
He added: "One of (the filmmakers') fundamental God-given rights is to express ourselves responsibly. One of our other responsibilities is to protect and defend that right as best as we can ... I am given the floor at the premiere to express my sentiments so I hope my anger right now will have calmed down by then for my words to have any meaning than just whining."

Carpio said other filmmakers suffered the same treatment, specifically Cebu-based Victor Villanueva ("Ephemeral"). "I speak for Victor also," Carpio said shortly before the premiere.

INQUIRER Entertainment sought the reaction of ABC 5, which refused to comment on the matter. However, a network insider said an executive of the show met with Carpio on Sunday for a dialogue.

The source also pointed out that by submitting their works to the network, the 16 filmmakers have given ABC 5 the authority to edit their films

INDIE/ E5


WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE, SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.
KEVIN COSTNER
ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"

2ND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

the bloomfields

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Wednesdays
with
the bloomfields
October 18 / 8:00 PM
Fuente Circle
FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City
Jazz
sessions
Johnny Alegre Affinity
October 19 / 8:00 PM
Eastwood City Walk 2
FREE ADMISSION
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E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE BANQUET
12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00
PG-13

2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

3 BARNYARD 2:00, 4:10, 6:25 G
THE GUARDIAN 8:20, 11:10 PG-13

4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

PNB
JOINT PROPERTY AUCTION
ALLIED BANK

OCTOBER 26, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • SARABIA MANOR HOTEL, 101 General Luna St., Iloilo City

[illegible]

ITEM 1 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 385.00 sqm
Lot 1308-D-1 Interior Lot W/ No Rd Right Of Way Estancia
Market Value 270,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 189,000.00

ITEM 2 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 938.00 sqm.
Lot 1395-C Mun Rd Estancia
Market Value 1,309,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,048,000.00

[illegible]

ITEM 3 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 708.00 sqm.
Lot 3073 Rd Right Of Way Mambog
Market Value 367,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 294,000.00

KALIBO

ITEM 4 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 7,694.00 sqm.
L2076-A-1 Brgy Rd Bachao Sur
Market Value 4,810,400.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,328,000.00

ANTIQUE

ITEM 5 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 419.00 sqm.
Lot 10084 Provicial Rd. Brgy. Atabay Tobias Fornier
Market Value 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

ITEM 6 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 1,145.00 sqm.
Lot 238 Mun Rd Brgy Calag-lion, San Remigio
Market Value 386,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 244,000.00

ITEM 7 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 4,854.00 sqm.
Lot 1530 Bagumbayen St. Subd. Rd Agumbayen St. Cor. Subd. Rd Brgy 8, San Jose
Market Value 5,351,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 4,014,000.00

ITEM 8 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area. 258.00 sqm.
Lot-318 Taboque St Calng-lian, San Remigio
Market Value. 64,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 9 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 992.56 sqm.
Lot4-A-3 Rd Right Way Brgy Funda-Dalpe San Jose
Market Value 556,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 445,000.00

ITEM 10 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area. 2,957.00 sqm.
Floor Area 155.00 sqm.
Lot-1-A Rd Right Of Way Int Lot Near Cordena St Brgy 5 Sn Jose
Market Value 4,260,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,982,000.00

ITEM 11 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 650.00 sqm
Floor Area 190.00 sqm.
Lot-1494-A R/R Of Way Del Pilar St Brgy 8, San Jose
Market Value 1,668,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,335,000.00

ITEM 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 6,448.00 sqm.
Floor Area 185.00 sqm.
Lot-364-K Democracia St. Brgy San Pedro San Jose
Market Value 2,184,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,529,000.00

ITEM 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area. 421.00 sqm.
Floor Area 135.00 sqm.
Lot 2492 Nat'L Rd Brgy Villaflor Tobias Fornier
Market Value 351,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 320,000.00

ITEM 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area. 3,094.00 sqm.
Floor Area 88.00 sqm.
Lot 2891 Nat'L Rd Brgy Dumrag, Pandan
Market Value 1,038,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 727,000.00

ITEM 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 1,116.00 sqm.
Floor Area 242.00 sqm
Lot-306-A & 297-A Nat'L Rd 306 & Nat'L Rd 297 Poblacion Belison
Market Value 1,151,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 806,000.00

ITEM 16 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 186,195.00 sqm.
Lot 5295, Brgy Bangbangan 2Nd Hamtic
Market Value 649,292.50
Minimum Bid Price 412,000.00

ITEM 17 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 675.00 sqm.
Lot-1381-B-1-A-2 Princesa St. Brgy 3 San Jose
Market Value 538,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 430,000.00

ITEM 18 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,637.00 sqm.
Lot 420,419A 419 Old Provincial Brgy Nasuli San Remigio
Market Value 190,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 167,000.00

ITEM 19 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 40,518.00 sqm.
Lot-7077-A, Fornier St. San Jose
Market Value 234,084.00
Minimum Bid Price 175,000.00

ITEM 20 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,351.00 sqm.
Lot 10184 Provl. Rd Brgy Atabay, Tobias Fornier
Market Value 446,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 423,000.00

ITEM 21 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 13,736.00 sqm.
Lot 4374 Brgy Esperanza II Sibalom T.A. Fornier St San Jose
Market Value 69,340.00
Minimum Bid Price 63,000.00

ITEM 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 2,000.00 sqm.
Lot-7-J-D-1-A Subd Rd Brgy. Bantayan San Jose
Market Value 1,400,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,120,000.00

ITEM 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 246.00 sqm.
Lot 1765-B Iglesias St San Jose
Market Value 886,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 709,000.00

CAPIZ

ITEM 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 37,093.00 sqm.
Lot 3180-E Brgy Aganan, Dao
Market Value 111,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 89,000.00

ITEM 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 36,543.00 sqm.
Lot 321 Sitio Tagobong, Brgy Bungsu-An, Dumarao
Market Value 131,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 105,000.00

ITEM 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 43,505.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy Daculan, Dumarao
Market Value 187,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 150,000.00

ITEM 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 39,350.00 sqm.
Lot E Daculan, Dumarao
Market Value 193,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 155,000.00

ITEM 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,429.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-2-B-1-K Poblacion Tacas, Pontevedra
Market Value 572,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 458,000.00

ITEM 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 113,088.00 sqm.
Lot 865 Brgy. Banala Pontevedra
Market Value. 689,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 483,000.00

ITEM 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 5,880.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-1 Pontevedra
Market Value 50,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 40,000.00

ITEM 31 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,798.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-2 Pontevedra
Market Value 37,980.00
Minimum Bid Price 31,000.00

ITEM 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 5,000.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-3 Pontevedra
Market Value 50,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 40,000.00

TAPAZ

ITEM 33 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 28,872.00 sqm.
Cad-2022 Brgy Wright, Tapaz
Market Value 110,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 88,000.00

ILOILO

ITEM 34 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 270.00 sqm.
Lot 494-A Near Legazpi St Brgy Legaspi
Market Value 405,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 386,000.00

ITEM 35 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 720.00 sqm.
Lot 78/3-A-1-B-5-C Brgy Sto Niño Sur, Arevalo
Market Value 219,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 183,000.00

ITEM 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 746.00 sqm.
L4304-D Brgy Molo Blvd., Molo
Market Value 522,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 314,000.00

ITEM 37 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 2,438.00 sqm.
L4301-B Brgy Molo Blvd. Molo
Market Value 1,755,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,023,000.00

ITEM 38 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 1,344.00 sqm.
Lot 003 Nat'L Rd Brgy [illegible]
Market Value 1,875,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 980,000.00

ITEM 39 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 237.00 sqm
Floor Area 100.00 sqm.
Lot-1, Blk 5 Rd Lot Dayot Subd., Brgy Dawis Dingle
Market Value 330,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 264,000.00

ITEM 40 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 3,304.00 sqm.
Floor Area 48.00 sqm
Lot-1721-A Brgy Rd Brgy Lanag St Leon
Market Value 1,398,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,110,000.00

ITEM 41 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 2,778.00 sqm
Floor Area 73.00 sqm.
Lot-1809 Brgy Lanag Leon
Market Value 1,781,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,426,000.00

ITEM 42 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area 1,355.00 sqm.
Floor Area 182.00 sqm.
Lot 7268-A Pingpin St., Poblacion, Bingawan
Market Value 1,706,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,365,000.00

ITEM 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,414.00 sqm.
Lot 704 Brgy Rd Brgy Monpon Dueñas
Market Value 512,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 384,000.00

ITEM 44 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,848.00 sqm.
Lot 186 Arcia St., Carles
Market Value 874,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 656,000.00

ITEM 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 889.00 sqm.
Lot 1616-B-54 1616-B-6 Mun. Rd. Brgy. Tabuk Subs. Blac Nuevo
Market Value 711,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 570,000.00

ITEM 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2-H, Subd. Rd. De Los Santos Subd., Pob Sur Balasan
Market Value 299,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

ITEM 47 - AGRILAND
Lot Area. 173,334.00 sqm.
Lot 5339-A, Brgy. Tampucao, Lambunao
Market Value 580,002.00
Minimum Bid Price 421,000.00

ITEM 48 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 352.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-G, Subd Rd. De Los Santos Subd., Balasan
Market Value 289,600.00
Minimum Bid Price 232,000.00

ITEM 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 405.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 18 Aquino St. Subd. Rd Aquino St., Phase 2, St Joseph Subd., Brgy Blabago Jaro
Market Value 734,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 588,000.00

ITEM 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 289.00 sqm
Lot-1, Blk-2 Subd Rd Catalan Subd., Brgy. Capuling, Duenas
Market Value 130,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 104,000.00

ITEM 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 225.00 sqm.
Lot-2, Blk-2 Subd Rd Catalan Subd., Brgy Capuling, Duenas
Market Value 113,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 91,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 698,000.00

ITEM 52 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 2,860.00 sqm.
Lot 55-B-7-A-7 & Lot 55-B-7-A-5 R/R Of Way Brgy Sambag Jaro
Market Value 3,442,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,582,000.00

ITEM 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 316.00 sqm.
L1-Aa Subd Rd De Los Santos Subd. Pob'L Sur Balasan
Market Value 253,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 203,000.00

ITEM 54 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 226.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 Subd. Rd Catalan Subd Brgy Capuling, Duenas
Market Value 113,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 91,000.00

ITEM 55 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 259.00 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 2 Subd Rd Catalan Subd. Brgy Capuling Duenas
Market Value 130,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 104,000.00

ITEM 056 - Vacant/Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area 423.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2, St. Joseph Sub Brgy. Gubay Jaro, Iloilo
Market Value 530,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 450,000.00

ITEM 057 - Residential 2 Storey Res. Bldg
Lot Area 497.00 sqm.
Floor Area 108.28 sqm
Lot 2397-A-2-C J.C. Poblac. Municipality of Pototan
Market Value 777,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 699,300.00

ITEM 058 - Residential Lot
Lot Area. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 7203-A-2 Interior Guzman Brgy Guzman Jesena, Mandurriao
Market Value 300,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 270,000.00

[illegible]

ITEM 59 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 301.00 sqm.
L943 Prov'L Rd Brgy Guadalupe
Market Value 235,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 200,000.00

CALINOG

ITEM 60 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 1,746.00 sqm
L4280 Dulgado St., Pob. Ilaud
Market Value 1,347,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,050,000.00

[illegible]

ITEM 61 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 940.00 sqm
Lot 3487-B Baldoza St Brgy Baldoza
Market Value 635,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 540,000.00

LEGANES

ITEM 62 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 493.00 sqm.
Lot 22 Espino Extension, Pob'L
Market Value 345,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 260,000.00

POTOTAN

ITEM 63 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 2,595.00 sqm
Floor Area 42.00 sqm.
Lot 107 Round Track, San Jose (Interior) St.
Market Value 1,871,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,405,000.00

BACOLOD

ITEM 64 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 8,394.00 sqm.
Lot 563 Int Portion Of Purok Kaingin, Brgy Punta Taytay
Market Value 2,015,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,512,000.00

ITEM 65 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 720.00 sqm.
Floor Area 1,334.00 sqm.
Lot 406-B-26 & 29, 13Th St., Brgy 4
Market Value 6,390,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 5,454,000.00

ITEM 66 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 518.00 sqm.
Lot 2258 Mabini St., Dancalan, Ilog
Market Value 388,500.00
Minimum Bid Price 350,000.00

ITEM 67 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 410.00 sqm.
Floor Area 85.00 sqm
Lot 01-B-5-G-1 Int Gatia St
Market Value 496,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 372,000.00

ITEM 68 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 935.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd Phase 1 Brgy. Banago
Market Value 2,799,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,860,000.00

ITEM 69 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 2,329.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 2 Subd Road Sta Clara Subd. Phase 1 Brgy Banago
Market Value 6,987,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 4,891,000.00

ITEM 70 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,107.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 30 Sta Clara Drv Sta Clara Subd Phase 1 Brgy Banago
Market Value 3,321,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,325,000.00

ITEM 71 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 1,878.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A Blk 1 Circumferential Road Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy Banago
Market Value 6,512,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 4,559,000.00

ITEM 72 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 7,243.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta Clara Subd Brgy Banago
Market Value 8,917,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 6,251,000.00

ITEM 73 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 1,937.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 Circumferential Road, Sta Clara Subd Brgy Banago
Market Value 7,749,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 5,424,000.00

ITEM 74 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta Clara Subd (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 562,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 75 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta Clara Subd (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm
Lot 8 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta Clara Subd (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 562,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
L10 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave. Sta. Clara Subd. (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 240.00 sqm.
L12 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta Clara Subd (West), Brgy Banago
Market Value. 562,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
L16 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd (West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 80 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 760.00 sqm.
L8 Blk 14 San Fernando A Sta Clara Subd (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 1,748,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000.00

ITEM 81 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 760.00 sqm.
L14 Blk 14 San Fernando Sta. Clara Subd. (West) Brgy Banago
Market Value 1,748,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000.00

ITEM 82 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 760.00 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave Sta Clara Subd (West), Brgy Banago
Market Value 1,748,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000.00

ITEM 83 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,065.00 sqm.
Lot 38 Blk 5 Paquita St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy Bata
Market Value 2,450,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,715,000.00

ITEM 84 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,039.00 sqm.
Lot 39 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd Brgy Bata
Market Value 2,390,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,673,000.00

ITEM 085 - 3 PROPERTIES
1) 1 Storey Office & Bodega
Lot Area 957.00 sqm.
Floor Area 238.36 sqm.
Lot 2-B-8-E Lopville Subdivision
2) Vacant/Residential Subd Lot
Lot Area 186.00 sqm.
Lot 25 Blk 27 Golden River Subdivision
3) Vacant/Residential Subd L
Lot Area 150.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 27 Golden River Subdivision
Market Value 3,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000.00

ITEM 086 - Vacant/Residential Subd Lot
Lot Area 499.00 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 9, Greenplains Subdivision III Brgy Singcang Airport
Market Value 1,247,500.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,155,125.00

ITEM 087 - Vacant/Residential Subd Lot
Lot Area 499.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 9 Greenplains Subdivision II Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Market Value 1,996,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,896,200.00

ITEM 088 - Vacant/Residential Subd Lot
Lot Area 503.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 9 Greenplains Subdivision III Brgy Singcang-Airport
Market Value 2,012,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,911,400.00

ITEM 089 - Residential Lot
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area 280.00 sqm
Lot 10-A-4-C-2-B-2-C-7 Purok Mars near Aranola Street, Brgy Singcang Airport
Market Value 4,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,400,000.00

ITEM 090 - Vacant Comm'l lots
Lot Area 346.00 sqm.
Lot 6-F-2-B & 6-F-3-C Tindalo Ave., Shopping Brgy Villamonte
Market Value 3,980,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,430,000.00

ITEM 091 - Residential Lot
Lot Area 3,937.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Hilda Kalumbat Brgy San Jose, E.B. Magalona Negros Occ.
Market Value 800,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 600,000.00

BAGO

ITEM 92 - LOT W/ IMPRV
Lot Area 10,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area 900.00 sqm
Lot 14-A Bago-Ma-Ao Road, Brgy Lag-Asan
Market Value 5,090,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 4,072,000.00

ITEM 93 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 725.00 sqm
Lot 216-A-5-H Purok Balinghoy Poblacion
Market Value 290,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 203,000.00

ITEM 94 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm
Lot 216-A-5-A, Purok Baling Poblacion
Market Value 400,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 320,000.00

CADIZ

ITEM 95 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 600.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 4 Lot 3 Blk 4 Lot Blk 4 Purok Democracia Brgy. Jerusalem
Market Value 90,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 72,000.00

ITEM 96 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 251.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 78 Road Lot 7 Andres Village, Zone I Poblacion
Market Value 100,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 70,000.00

HINOBAYAN

ITEM 97 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 2,279.00 sqm.
3954-B-6-B Brgy 2, Poblacion
Market Value 272,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 191,000.00

KABANKALAN

ITEM 98 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 990.60 sqm.
Floor Area 164.00 sqm.
Lot 134-A-2 Burgos St Brgy 8
Market Value 1,205,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 904,000.00

[illegible]

ITEM 99 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 573.00 sqm.
Floor Area 148.00 sqm.
Lot No 186-F-5 Banggo Tuling, Int Lacson St
Market Value 791,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 595,000.00

[illegible]

ITEM 100 - LOT W/ IMPRV
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area 135.00 sqm.
Lot 19-I-5-A A.E. Maranon St., Poblacion II
Market Value 666,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 600,000.00

ITEM 101 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 301.00 sqm
Floor Area 70.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 3 Osterhals Shortabeek Corner Mozart Sts City Heights Subd
Market Value 311,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 280,000.00

ITEM 102 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm
Floor Area 100.00 sqm
Lot 10 Blk 40 Tupas St Extension Poblacion I
Market Value 654,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 416,000.00

ITEM 103 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area 80.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 43 Tupaz St Aguilar Subd
Market Value 608,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 456,000.00

ITEM 104 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Purok Lena Brgy Villo
Market Value 45,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

ITEM 105 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Purok Lena Brgy Villo
Market Value 45,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

TOBOSO

ITEM 106 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 10,378.00 sqm.
Lot 1810 Sitio San Roque Brgy Salamanca
Market Value 57,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 40,000.00

ITEM 107 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 329.00 sqm
Lot 2, Blk 8, Dumdum Subd., Brgy Poblacion
Market Value 66,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 53,000.00

VICTORIAS

ITEM 108 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area 91.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 10 Urdaneta St., Salvacion Subd
Market Value 376,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 339,600.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

AKLAN

ITEM 0109 - Vacant Residential/Commercial Lot
Lot Area 487.00 sqm.
Lot 167-B C Laserna St Poblacion Kalibo
Market Value 5,800,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 5,220,000.00

ITEM 0110 - Residential Lot w/ Bungalow & Warehouse
Lot Area 531.00 sqm.
Floor Area 129.00 sqm
Lot 4796-I Brgy Tinigao
Market Value 650,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 618,000.00

ANTIQUE

ITEM 0111 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area 567.00 sqm.
Lot 18 Blk 1 Road Lot 2, Brgy Road Funda-Dalipe San Jose
Market Value 453,600.00
Minimum Bid Price 431,800.00

ITEM 0112 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area 597.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 1 Road Lot 2, Brgy Road Funda-Dalipe San Jose
Market Value 477,600.00
Minimum Bid Price 459,000.00

CAPIZ

ITEM 0113 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1212-B-6-Eba Tiza And Bo Matabil, Roxas City
Market Value 1,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 950,000.00

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2 HUNGER FOR LOVE
3 MAPAG BIGAY
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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

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2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

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2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOYS
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 TXT
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MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Young stars opt for varied career choices

LEONARDO DICAPRIO ISN'T THE ONLY young romantic lead toughening up his movie image, the better to play more adult roles in future crime dramas and thrillers.

In "Green Street Hooligans," which started its Metro Manila run last week, **Elijah Wood** reveals his dark side by playing a bad boy who tangles with gang violence in London.

Yes, the puckish star of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy has opted not to play it sunny and light this time, to inform producers and filmmakers that he's grown up and is ready to portray gutsier characters with a lot more edginess to them.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In "Green Street Hooligans," Wood is an American student who gets kicked out of Harvard, and finds himself latching onto a gang in London, making it his vicious surrogate "family."

Now that both DiCaprio and Wood have gone the tough guy route, we look forward to seeing them pitted against each other in a forthcoming action thriller. What an exciting stellar confrontation that should be!

For his part, **Ashton Kutcher** is similarly trying something new in "The Guardian." The action-adventure-drama, in which he co-stars with **Kevin Costner**, is Kutcher's first action outing. In most of his movies, he's gone the romantic-comedy route, with droll results.

But Kutcher wants greater variety in his career options, so he's playing a swimming champion trained (by Costner) to become a rescue swimmer who courageously saves people from drowning in the briny deep.

On the local entertainment scene, The CompanY member **Reuben Laurente** has opted to go solo, after many years with the singing group.

He's just come up with his latest album, "Pop Virtuosity," with songs penned by **Ryan Cayabyab, Louie Ocampo** and **Mel Villena.** The album includes Reuben's duets with **Regine Velasquez** and **Sheila Francisco.**

Reuben is also interested in acting, and should be tapped by musical theater productions.

Other radical changes of pace include comedian **Will Ferrell** transforming himself into a race car driver in "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," **Hugh Jackman** playing a great magician in "The Prestige," and wrestling star **John Cena** shifting to acting in the action flick, "The Marine."

These performers know that the only way to achieve and sustain stardom in show business is by shifting gears once in a while.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
A HONG KONG 2007 OSCAR ENTRY, NOW TOPPING ASIAN BOX OFFICE RECORDS!
GE YOU ZHOU XUN ZIYI ZHANG DANIEL WU
FENG XIAOGANG
the Banquet
From the Academy Award winning ... "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"
Ziyi Zhang
One Empress must choose
Fight for the Throne
or for the love of one man
OPENS TODAY!

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BARNYARD G	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13	THE GUARDIAN PG13
THE BANQUET PG13	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13

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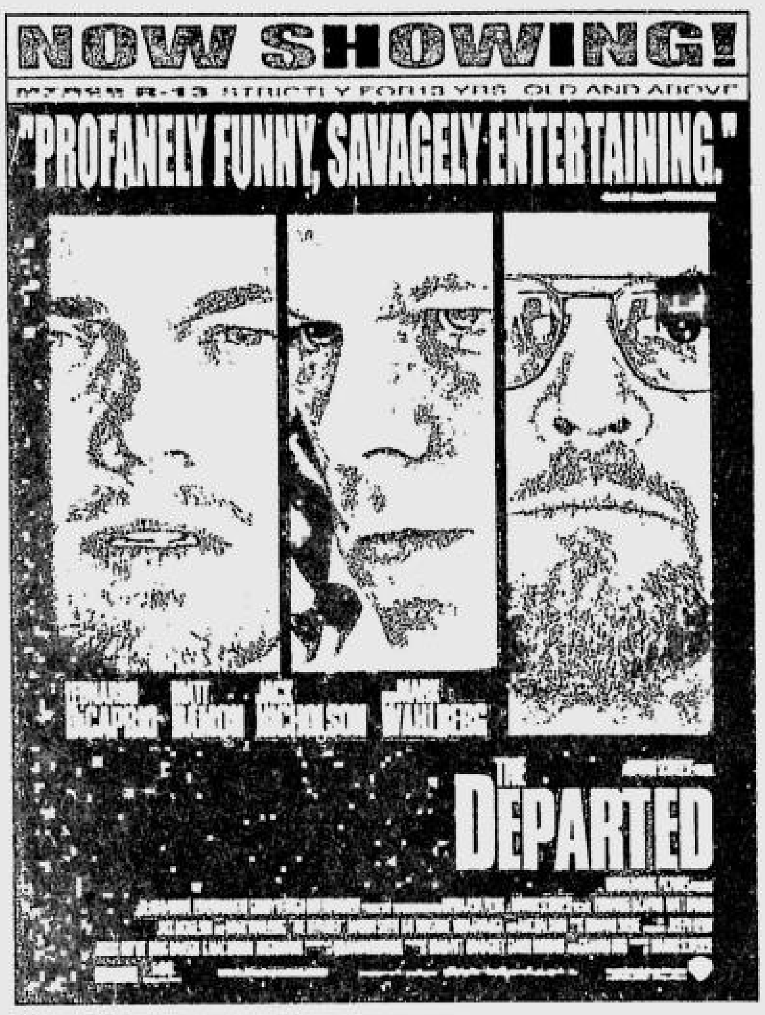
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.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"PROFANELY FUNNY, SAVAGELY ENTERTAINING."
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO MATT DAMON JACK NICHOLSON MARK WAHLBERG
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GB1	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU		
GB3	1 THX THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE BANQUET GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THE GUARDIAN		
	3 THE DEPARTED	4 BARNYARD	5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	
ACC	1 WORLD TRADE CENTER	2 STEP UP	3 TXT	4 TIL I MET YOU
M2	1 TXT	2 WORLD TRADE CENTER		
	3 BARNYARD	4 TIL I MET YOU	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Woodridge's United Nation Celebration October 25, 2006	Laguna Expo October 22 to 28, 2006

GREENBELT — Lounge Nights at Greenbelt 2
October 18 & 25, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN Jr.
at REP's Globe Theater - October 9 to 29, 2006

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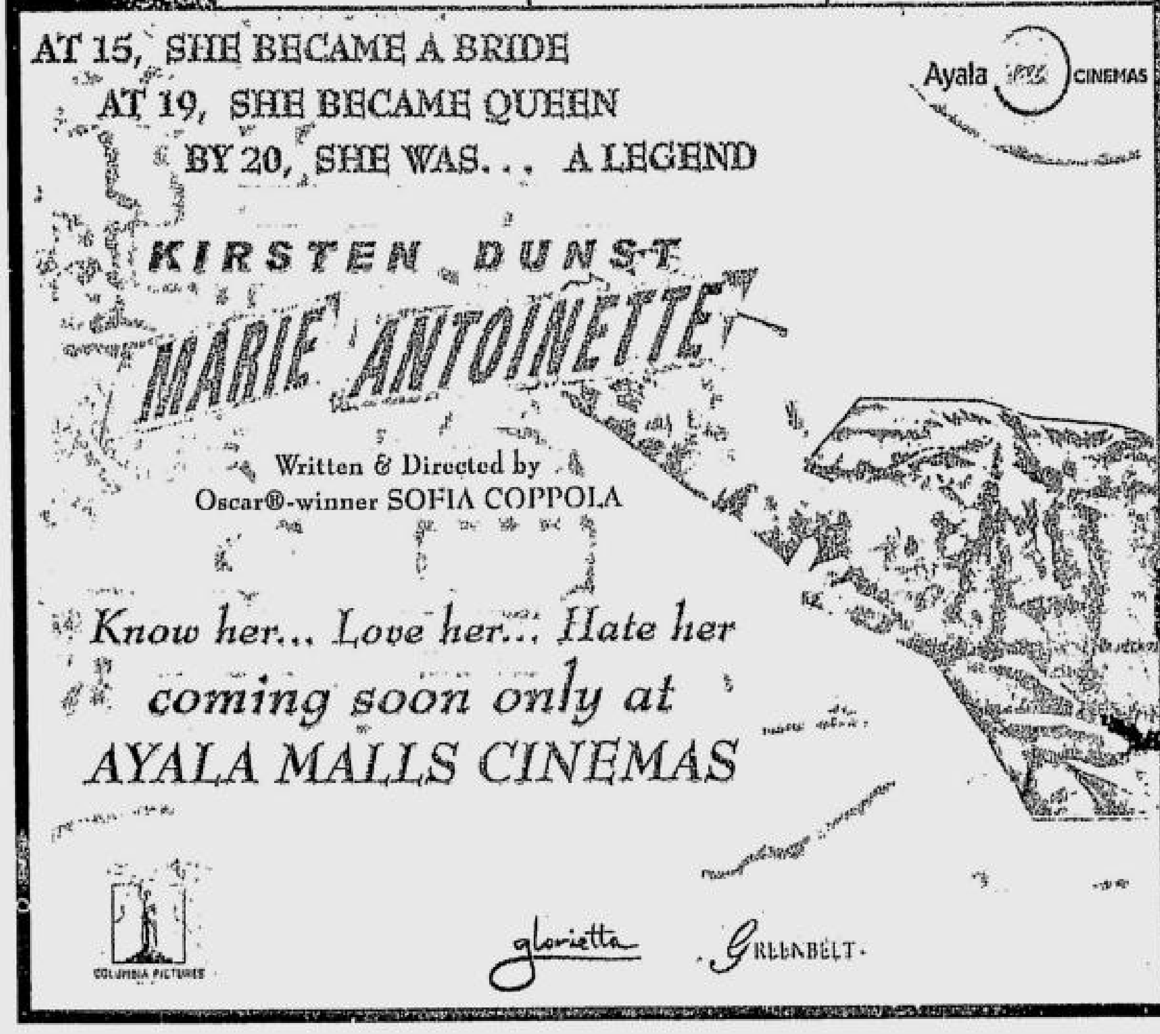


AT 15, SHE BECAME A BRIDE
AT 19, SHE BECAME QUEEN
BY 20, SHE WAS... A LEGEND

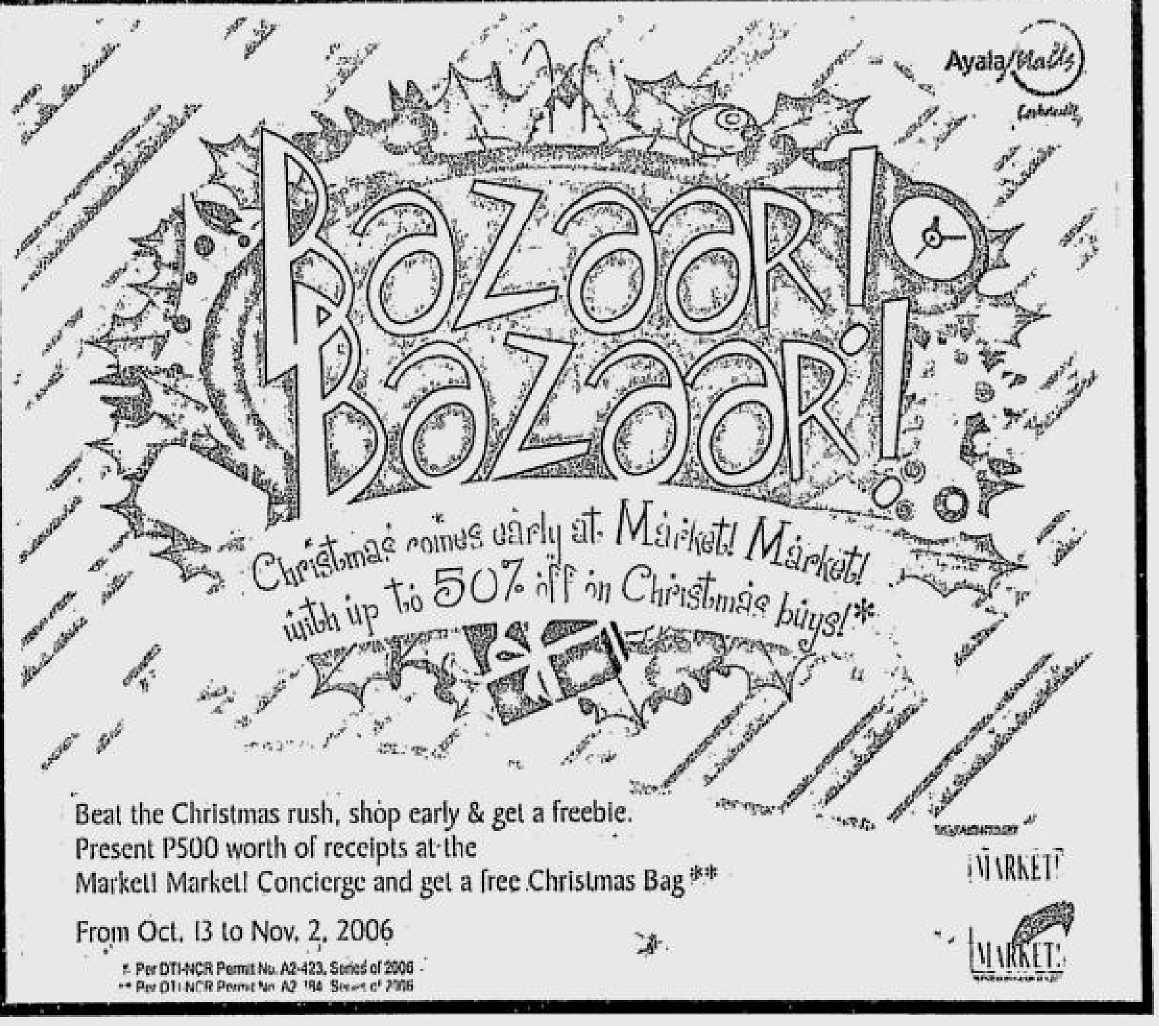
Ayala CINEMAS

KIRSTEN DUNST
MARIE ANTOINETTE

Written & Directed by
Oscar®-winner SOFIA COPPOLA

Know her... Love her... Hate her
coming soon only at
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

COLUMBIA PICTURES glorietta GREENBELT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Present P500 worth of receipts at the
Market! Market! Concierge and get a free Christmas Bag**

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* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-423, Series of 2006
** Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-184, Series of 2006

MARKET! MARKET!

Indie ...

From page E3

before airing them.

Only 13 of the 16 short films on the environmental disaster were aired on "Shorts" on Oct. 8. Filmmaker Khavn dela Cruz's "Toxic Mango" received an "X" rating from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), while Paolo Villaluna ("Rambling from the Sea") and Emman dela Cruz ("Spill") failed to submit copies of their films on the deadline set by the network, said the show's executive producer Bing Dimaano.

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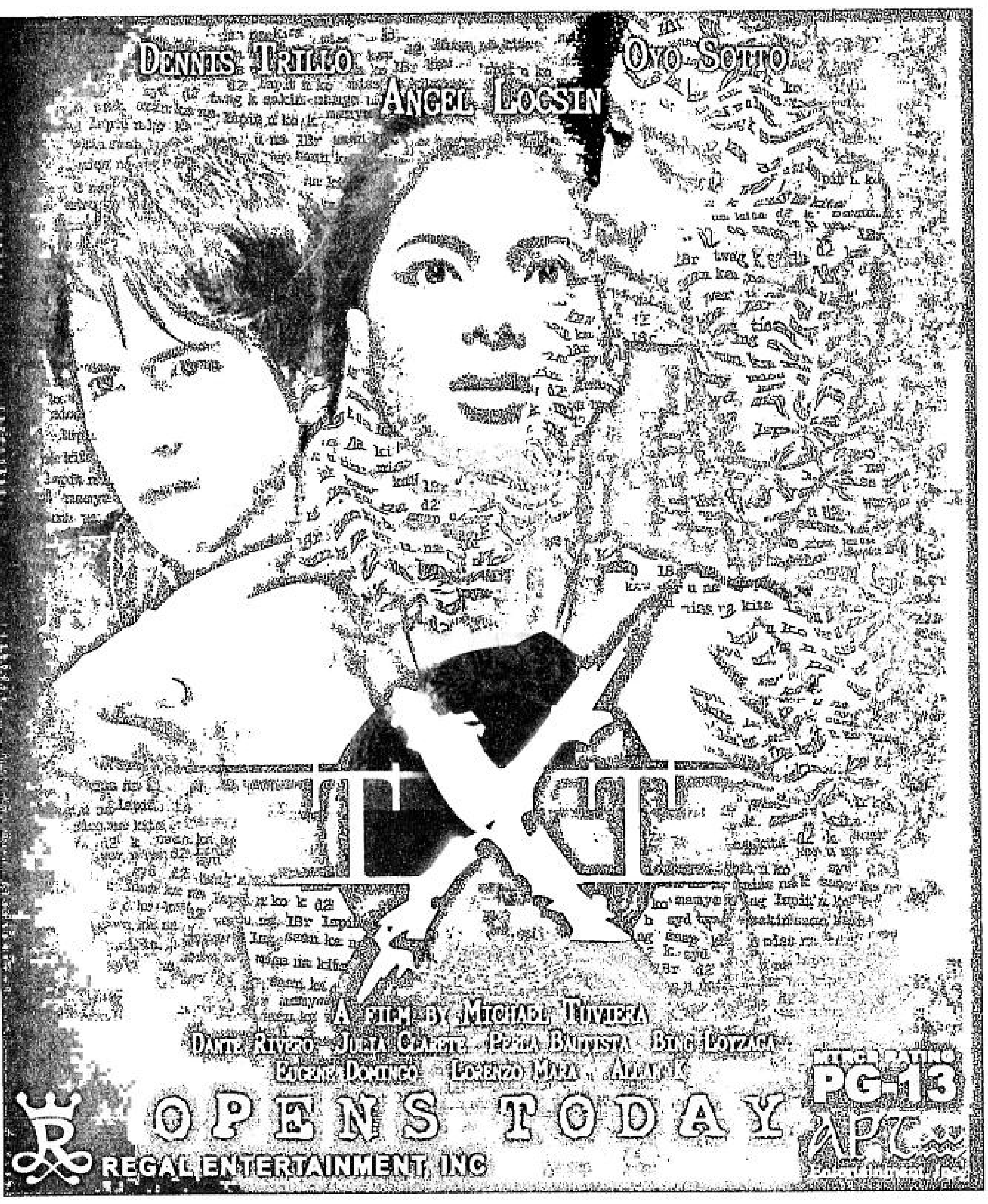
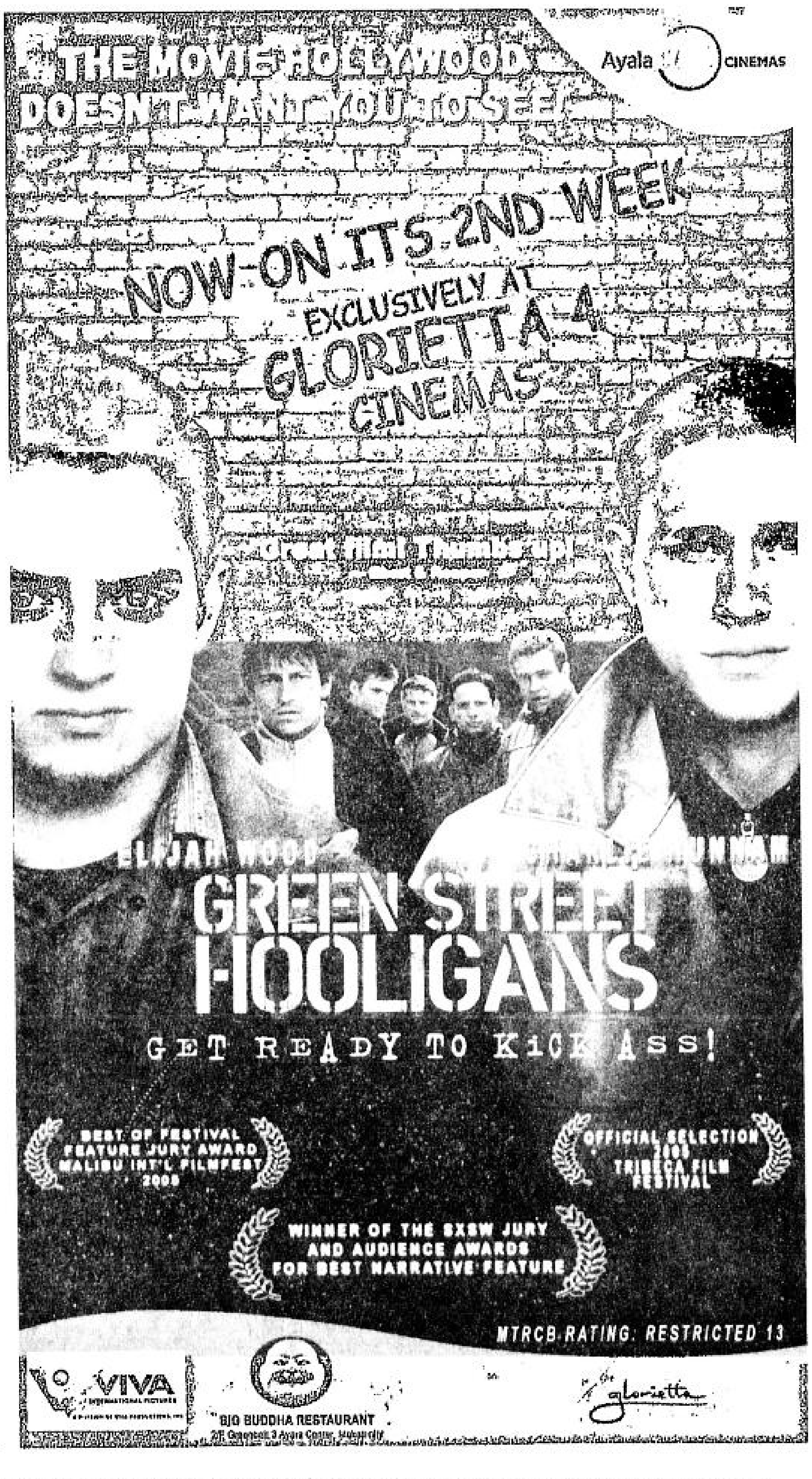
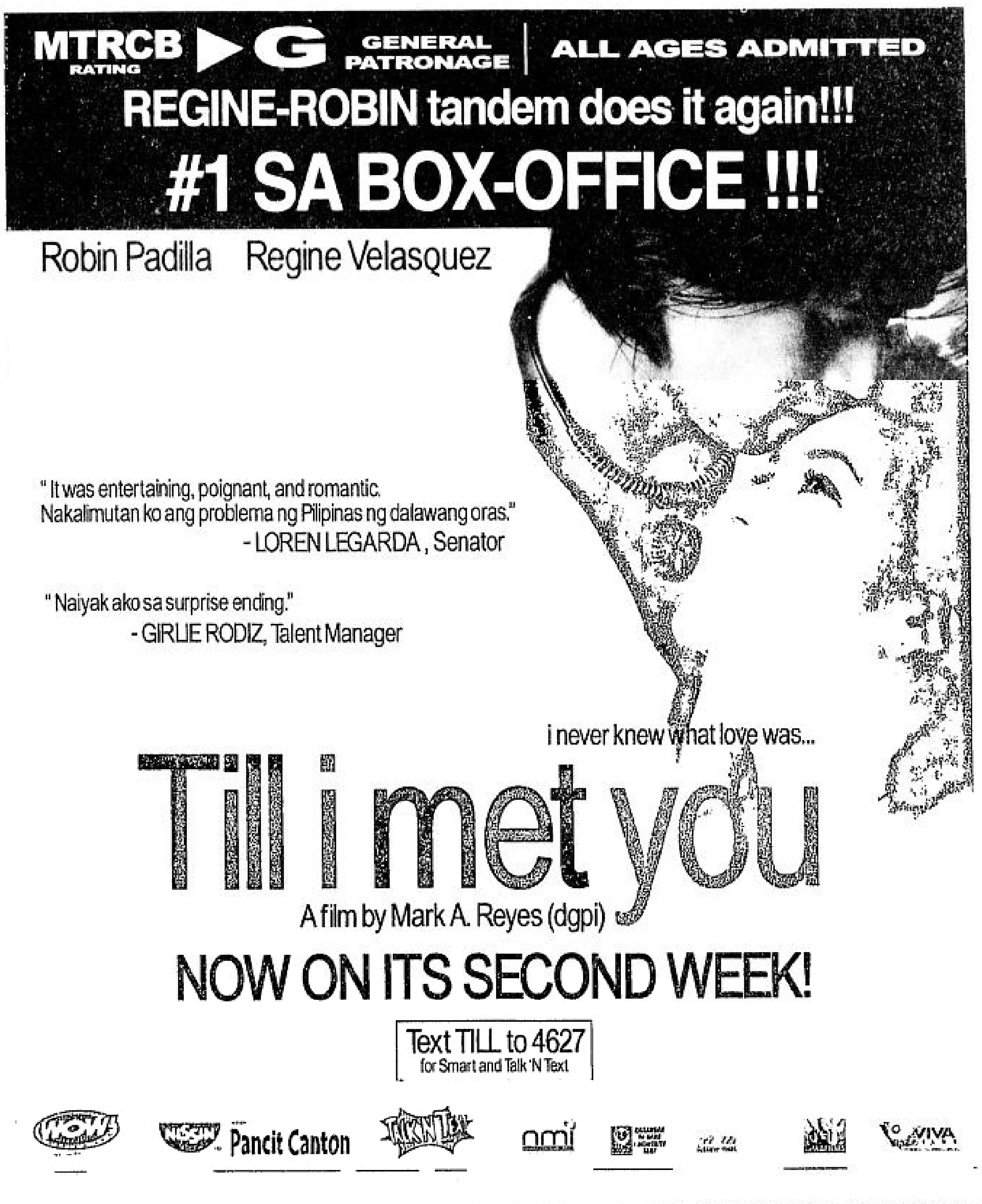
FROM PRODUCERS WES CRAVEN, MATT DAMON & BEN AFFLECK

ALIENS OR PREDATORS?
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE
FEAST
THEY'RE HUNGRY
YOU'RE DINNER
COMING SOON


DENNIS TRILLO
OYO SOTTO
ANGEL LOCSIN
TXT
A FILM BY MICHAEL TUVIERA
DANTE RIVERO · JULIA CLARETE · PERLA BAUTISTA · BING LOYZAGA
EUGENE DOMINGO · LORENZO MARA · ALLAN K
OPENS TODAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC


THE MOVIE HOLLYWOOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SEE!
Ayala CINEMAS
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK
EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
Great film! Thumbs up!
ELIJAH WOOD
GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS
GET READY TO KICK ASS!
BEST OF FESTIVAL FEATURE JURY AWARD MALIBU INT'L FILMFEST 2005
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2005 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER OF THE SXSW JURY AND AUDIENCE AWARDS FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE
MTRCB RATING: RESTRICTED 13
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
BIG BUDDHA RESTAURANT
glorietta


MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
REGINE-ROBIN tandem does it again!!!
#1 SA BOX-OFFICE !!!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
" It was entertaining, poignant, and romantic. Nakalimutan ko ang problema ng Pilipinas ng dalawang oras." - LOREN LEGARDA , Senator
" Naiyak ako sa surprise ending." - GIRLIE RODIZ, Talent Manager
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
NOW ON ITS SECOND WEEK!
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
WOW
Pancit Canton
Talk 'N Text
nmi
VIVA

OPENING TODAY

TXT

STARS DENNIS TRILLO, ANGEL LOCSIN, Oyo Boy Sotto, Dante Rivero, Perla Bautista. Directed by Mike Tuviera

It all started with debuting director Tuviera's nightmare of a hapless woman who's haunted by an unseen spirit through her cellphone. Tuviera shared his concept to wife Penny Daza-Tuviera who, with brother Paul Daza, wrote the screenplay of a "hair-raising" ghost story that, Tuviera insists, is thoroughly Pinoy. "I didn't want to copy 'The Grudge' or 'The Ring.' Our goal was to make a truly original and Filipino horror movie." According to Regal drumbeaters, Tuviera, who is the son of "Eat Bulaga" producer Tony Tuviera, is "the first and only Filipino to date to have earned a master's degree in Filmmaking from the University of Southern California—the alma mater of Oscar winners George Lucas, Robert Zemeckis and Ron Howard."

Barang

STARS JULIANA Palermo, Jay Manalo, Liza Lorena, Mike Tan, Cristine Reyes, Jaclyn Jose. Directed by Neal "Buboy" Tan.

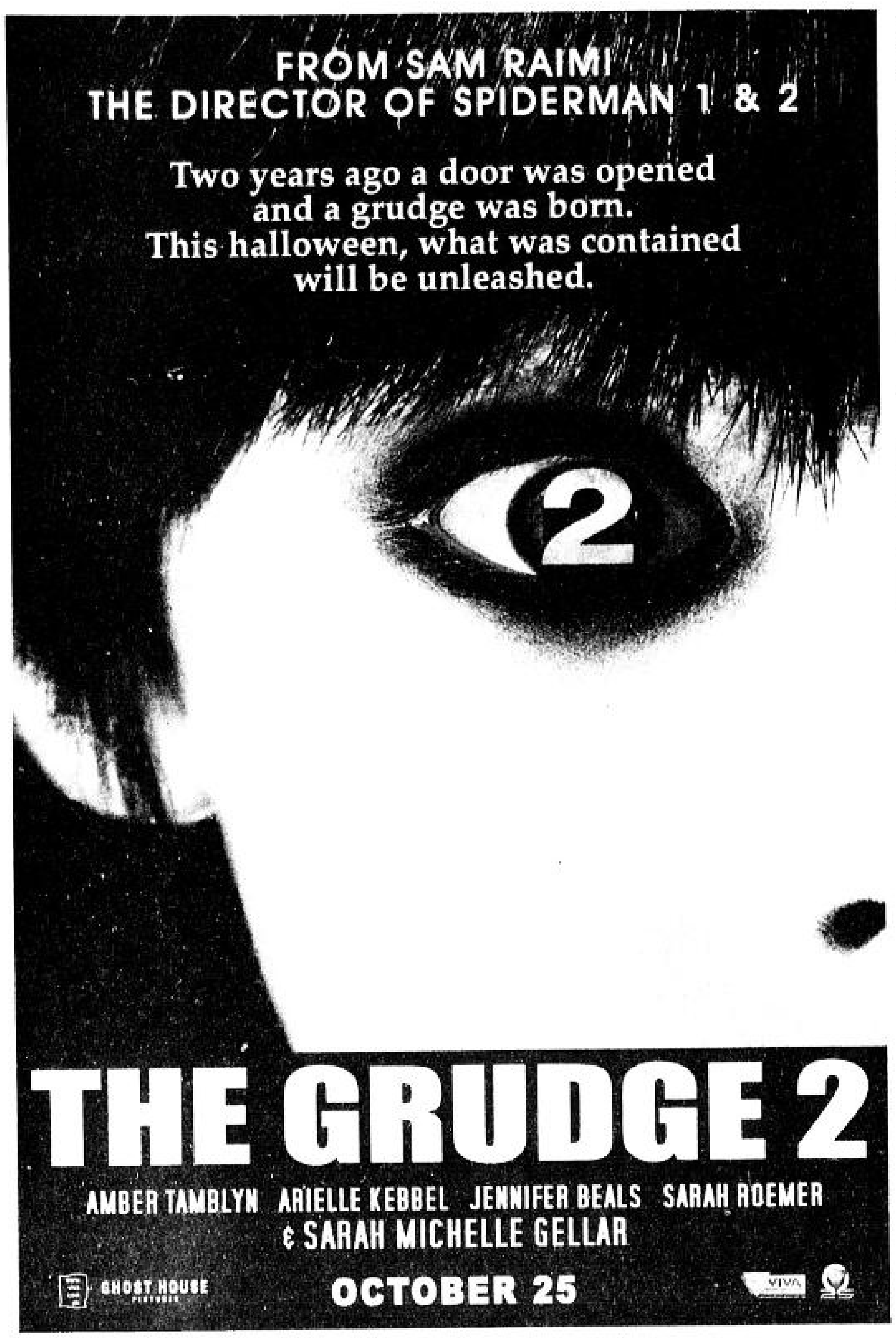
The initial presentation of Northern Star Productions, owned by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, recounts the misadventures of city folks who fall prey to the wily charms of a beautiful ghost—the avenging spirit of a provincial lass (Palermo) who died of a *barang* or a witch's curse. The horror flick was shot entirely in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, because the producer wanted to show off the beauty of his home province. According to insiders, Singson pulled out all the stops, to ensure that the movie's special effects are first-rate. Singson says he is ready to spend "P10 to P15 million on a project, for as long as the story is good." Director Tan's previous works are the sexy movies "Kalabit," "Puri," "Room Service" and "Maldita."

World Trade Center

STARS NICOLAS Cage, Michael Pena, Maria Bello, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Directed by Oliver Stone.

The 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City is revisited through the memories of two Port Authority officers (Cage and Pena), who were

OPENING/ E2

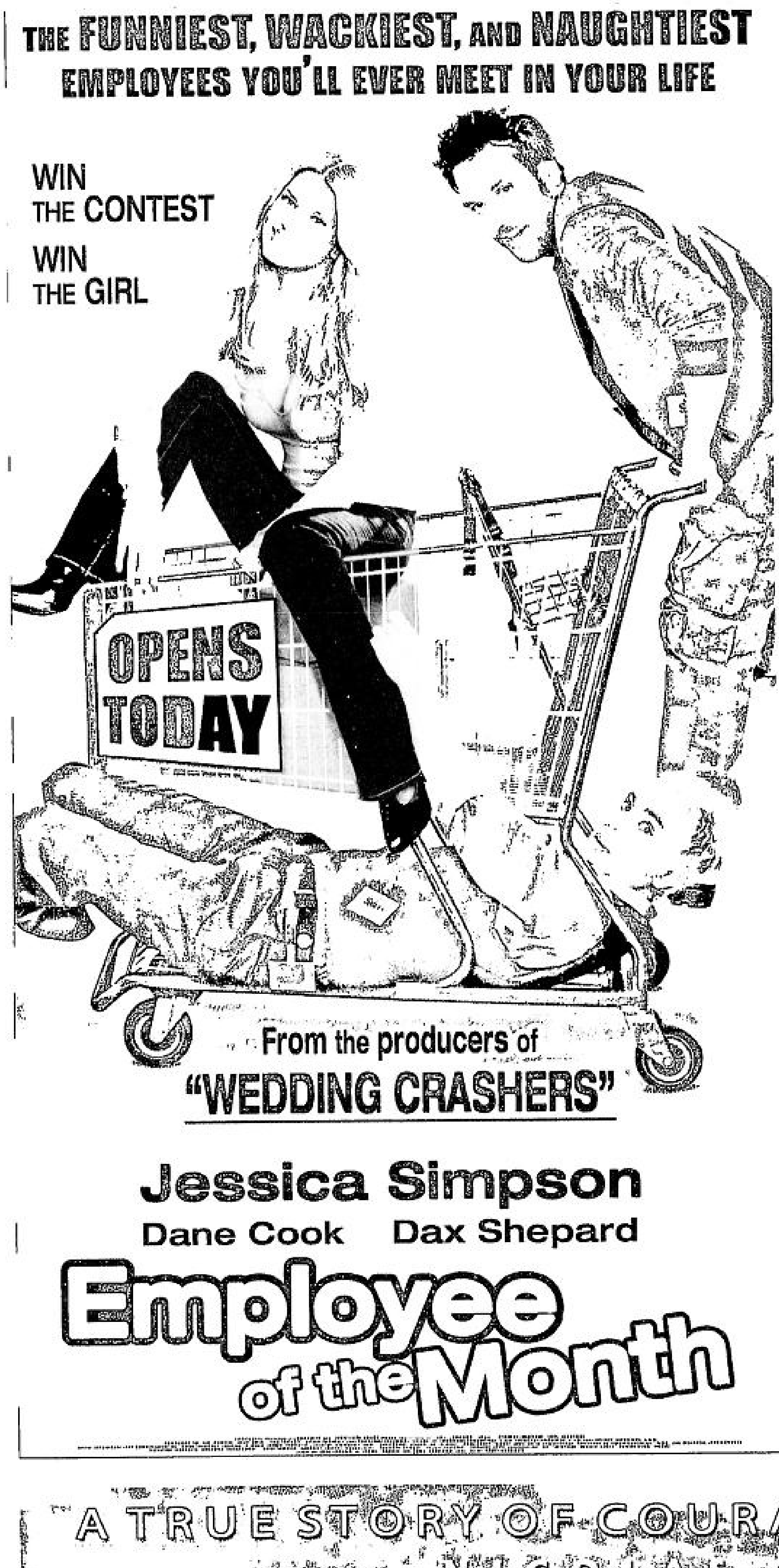

FROM SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1 & 2

Two years ago a door was opened
and a grudge was born.
This halloween, what was contained
will be unleashed.

THE GRUDGE 2

AMBER TAMBLYN ARIELLE KEBBEL JENNIFER BEALS SARAH ROEMER
& SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR

GHOST HOUSE PICTURES OCTOBER 25 VIVA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EMPLOYEES YOU'LL EVER MEET IN YOUR LIFE

WIN THE CONTEST
WIN THE GIRL

OPENS TODAY

From the producers of
"WEDDING CRASHERS"

Jessica Simpson
Dane Cook Dax Shepard

Employee of the Month

SHANG CINEPLEX

① WORLD TRADE CENTER
MTRCB PG-13
1 40, 4 30, 7 15, 10:00

② THE BANQUET
MTRCB PG-13

③ EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
(Subject for MTRCB Rating)

④ THE GUARDIAN
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 4 00, 7 00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE BARNYARD / THE DEPARTED
MTRCB GP MTRCB R-13

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Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details
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MY FIRST WEDDING 40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40
THE BANQUET 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 35 / 9:50
THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40
BARNYARD 12:20 / 2:30 / 6:50
WORLD TRADE CENTER 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 9:50
TILL I MET YOU 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
THE GUARDIAN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
WORLD TRADE CENTER 30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

AliMALL 5

TXT
BARANG 12:20 / 20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30
THE BANQUET 12:35 / 3:00 / 5:35 / 8:10
WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
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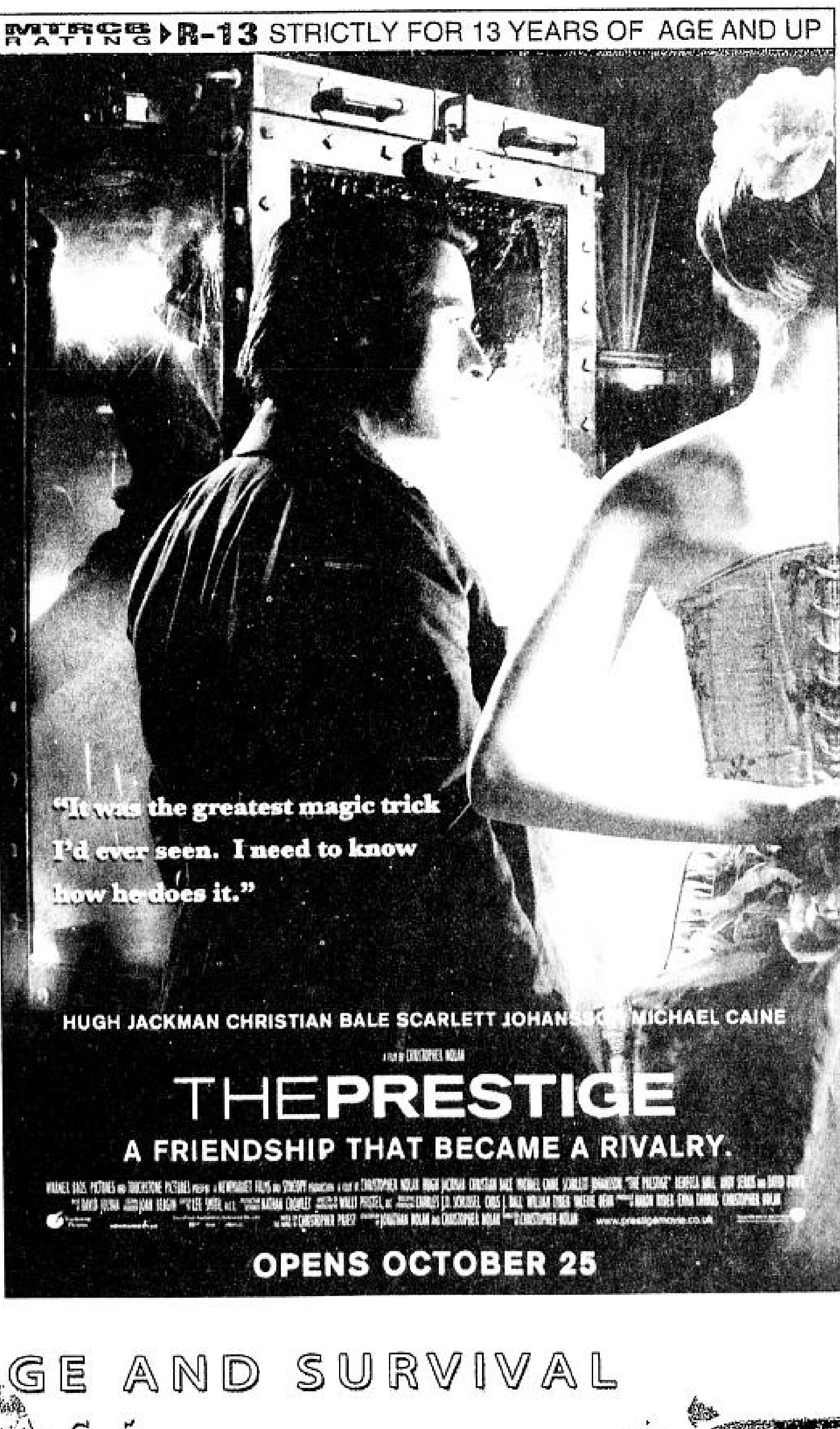
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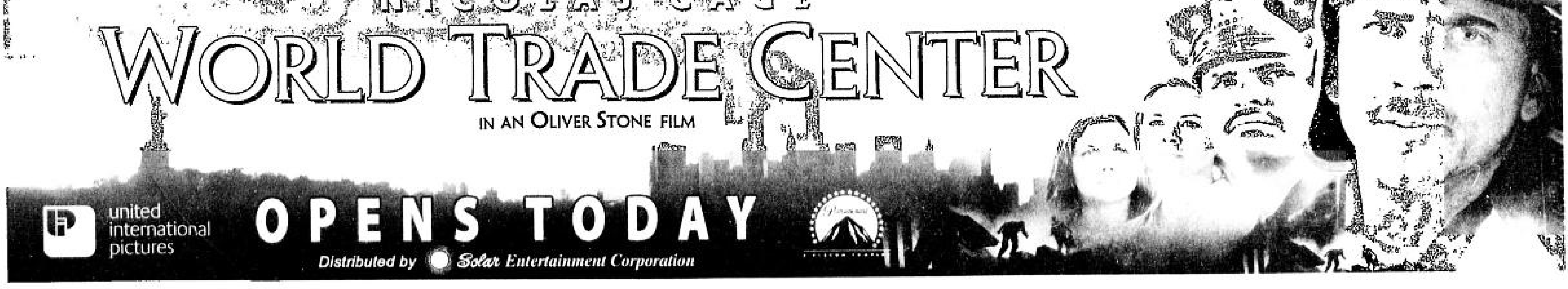
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